KEEP STRONG

Inside: "The Sheriff Rode A Donkey"

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3rd Annual Keep Strong Banquet Features Cong. Ron Dellums

HELEN SHILLER ANNOUNCES RUN FOR CITY COUNCIL IN FEBRUARY

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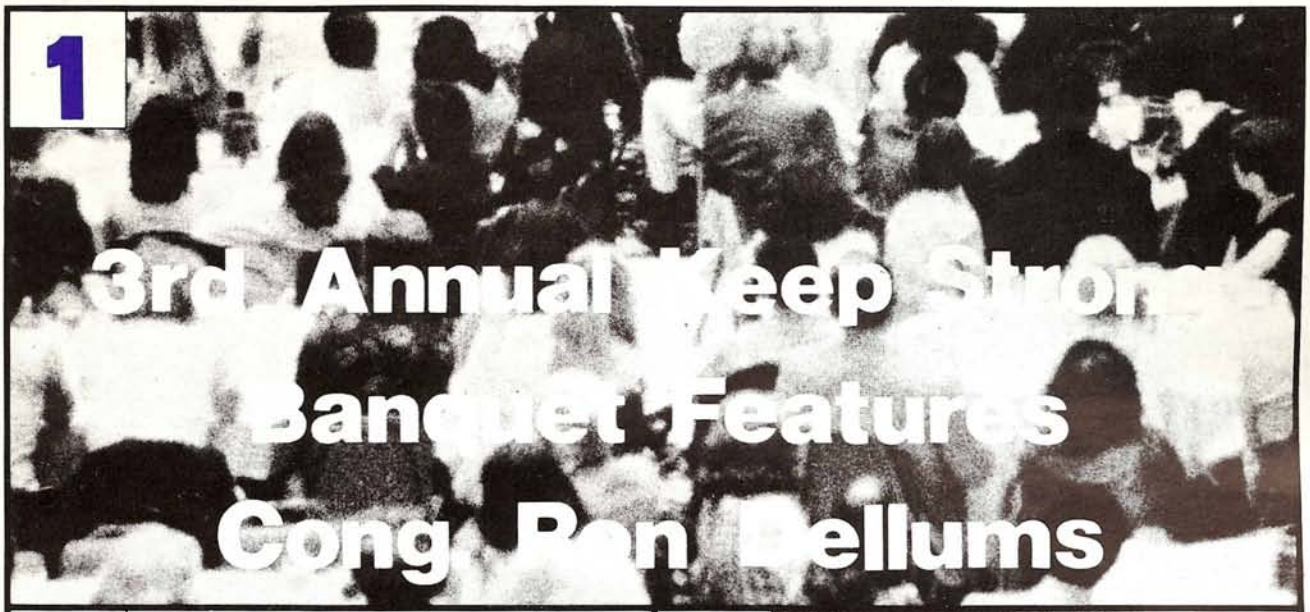

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KEEP STRONG OCTOBER, 1978

As we enter our 4th year of publication,
KEEP STRONG
wishes to thank our supporters.

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In This Issue

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2. Corruption in the sheriff's office and neglect in the County Jail are discussed as KEEP STRONG looks at Richard Elrod running for his third term as sheriff of Cook County. See page 33.

3. Congressman Ron Dellums outlines the critical problems in American society and offers a strategy for change. See page 40.

4. Racist Ian Smith, losing ground to liberation forces daily in Zimbabwe, is granted a visa to come to the U.S. See page 56.

5. Uptown artist Robin Whitespear is widely recognized as a master in his field, but he has not lost his ties to the community. See page 58.

EDITORIAL

DUMP THE DONKEYS!

Chicago is well known as a town of both gangs and gangsters. Richard J. Daley began his political career as part of a gang – the Hamburg Club – and many of the original 11th ward Hamburgers are in positions of power in the city today. The Irish Hamburgers made coalitions with other gangs and cliques of gangsters to rule the wards. And they made a deal with the downtown banks and businessmen – a more sophisticated and wealthy type of "legal" gangster. While the political gangs got the political gravy – the patronage – they gave the boys downtown a free hand to make millions in development deals, destroying the neighborhoods and building up the Loop for profit.

One of the cliques of political gangsters with which the Irish Hamburgers developed a coalition was the westside Donkey Club. These few men grew to control the sheriff's office as well as the westside 24th ward. When the ward became majority Black, the donkeys switched to backroom control and began to use their patronage jobs to organize the northside 46th ward, which includes Uptown, northern Lakeview and Ravenswood.

Sheriff Elrod placed his cousin, Ralph Axelrod, on as chief of personnel at the sheriff's office. From this position Axelrod used deputy sheriffs to organize the ward, often through intimidation and fear, and finally he became the alderman.

The Elrod-Axelrod donkeys follow the same pattern as the Daley Hamburgers. They use their muscle to control the votes and reap the benefits of political patronage. While doing so, they turn the neighborhoods over to be raped by developers, speculators and slumlords. While the buildings are being run down, burned down and torn down, the precinct captains and assistant precinct captains use their position to carry on destructive but profitable activities in the poor neighborhoods.

Richard Elrod (left) and Ralph Axelrod (right). Vote to "dump the donkeys."

It is time that the people of the 46th ward "dumped the donkeys." Vote down Elrod on November 7, by voting for Mulack, the reform candidate for Sheriff. Then in February, we will together win our political freedom from the donkey gang by putting Axelrod out of the City Council.□

COMMENT

QUALITY EDUCATION, NOT BUSING

Ericka Huggins

The following editorial is excerpted from an article written for Ramparts *magazine in 1975 by Ericka Huggins, Director of the Oakland Community School and member of the Alameda County Board of Education.*

The issue of busing is one that concerns everyone — parents, teachers, and children — about the quality of education in our public schools. Black and other poor people struggle with the questions: should we try to find better schools outside our communities or should we concentrate our efforts on upgrading the existing schools in our communities.

There would be no controversy over quality education in the Black community if Black people had concrete control of our schools. If we had decision-making power as to how much money would be spent on each child, how much would be spent on textbooks, and more importantly, what textbooks should be used to educate our children, there would be no need to bus them away from home.

We do not have community control of our schools. Therefore, we have been left powerless to prevent our schools from being poorly funded and understaffed. We have been unable to ensure that corps of dedicated Black and other minority persons be those who teach our children and serve as their role models. Consequently, we have been led to believe that if our children are bused to schools in White communities, they will automatically receive quality education and will simultaneously solve the problem of de facto school segregation. Neither assumption is correct.

Busing is a racist, lazy, selfish decision made by people who don't want to take the time to do the work required to improve the quality of education in all of our schools. Many school administrators have concluded that there is no solution to the problem of inferior schools within Black and poor communities. Therefore, busing has become a quick, cop-out answer to the basic problem.

The problem of achieving quality education goes much deeper than the surface solution of busing. Public school systems are due for a complete change. We believe that the Oakland Community School is one alternative for our survival until this complete change comes about with the establishment of community control of schools throughout the country. □

ON THE STREET

"Given the conditions at Cook County Jail, should there be a change in leadership?"

Ethel King
S. Calumet

"I do think there should be new leadership in the Cook County Jail because I've heard of the conditions, how the people are treated almost like animals, all jammed up together. I don't think this administration is doing anything to solve the problems for the people. There should be a new sheriff. But I don't like the other guy either. They know the conditions are not any good, but they're not going to say anything to go against their bosses. They get their jobs through them, so you know they just let things go on the way they are."

Edna Matlow
Racine

"We should have a better leader, one that knows the community, knows how the people struggle and why they got in there. We should get rid of him (Elrod) because he is not helping the prisoners none. There are not enough sleeping quarters. I don't think they eat right, and they don't get to see their kin."

Tyrone Tate
W. Race

"Of course there's got to be a change in the administration."

Carol Boyle
N. Winthrop

"Yes, most definitely. I think that we need to get a better sheriff, somebody who is more concerned about the people. The food, the living conditions, are outrageous, and the sleeping areas aren't worth anything. I got yellow jaundice in jail from the dirty conditions. The sheriff doesn't give a damn about anybody, and I think that if we change the sheriff it will make a big difference. As far as I was concerned, there were some guards who cared about the people and some who didn't. It's not really their fault, though. It's more their job than their fault."

Edith Serrano
N. Seely

"I think a lot of times it does help when you get new people because they have got new ideas. They bribe by bribing the people off by 'Vote for me, and I'll get you a job.' I don't go for that, because if you don't want to vote for that person, then you don't have a job. What kind of guards are they who get their job that way? What kind of job do you think they'll do? I don't think they'll do such a good job, not if they get the job that way. I really don't."

Martha Mahsin
N. Beacon

"I think it should be better. They should have somebody to go in there and change the Cook County Jail because it's real poor in there. The food is bad, and they're living indecently, more like animals. I think they should get somebody in there who would better the conditions in the jail."

Cynthia Carrera
N. Greenleaf

"I suppose there should be because of the lack of security and everything else that goes on at the jail. And Elrod's been in office, how long? Eight years, and he doesn't seem to care about it too much, or they're not getting anything done to improve it."

Richard Theriot
Manager, Riviera Theatre

"Well, I don't know very much about him (Elrod). Change is always good unless the present administration is doing such a bang-up job that you don't need any changes. There's always room for improvement, you know. I suppose in a sense a change would be good. At least it would give the other fellow a chance to show what he can do, and we'll never know that until he gets in. We do know that it is a mess over there now. And it just might be that Mr. Mulack might improve the situation over there some. Who knows? You can only tell after the man gets in and see how he works out."

Maurice Cashin
N. Kilbourn

"I don't know that much about the leadership of the jail, but I can see from all the articles in the paper and on television that there are a lot of problems, and that of these problems must be resolved. It seems that the leaders who are running the jail now are not able to handle the situation, and perhaps some type of change in the leadership would help. With the patronage, they are there just to pick up money. They're really not concerned about the welfare of the prisoners and the types of jobs that have to be done. They might not be as concerned as they should be. And perhaps if there was more of a merit system for these county jail workers, the conditions and the problems that the prisoners have would be lessened because they would be able to go to the people, and the administration would be more willing to help them."

Wynetta Frazier
S. University

"More than just a change in the leadership, I think there should be a change in the system. The overall problem is the overcrowding in the jail, and until such time that we have judges and can have men brought to court, immediately, as soon as the crime is committed, there's always going to be overcrowded conditions. So I think in terms of the change of the administration, we need a change of the system."

Welfare Rights

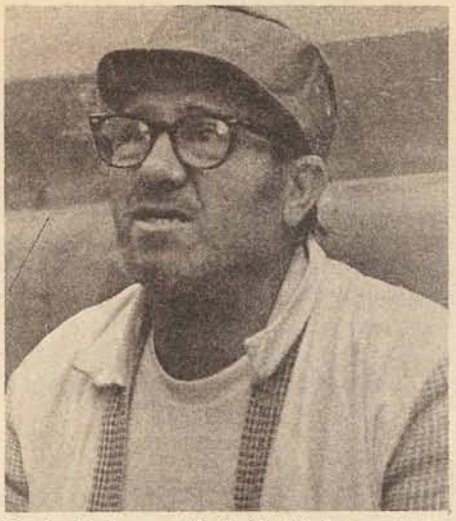
Social Security — They Didn't Beat Curly Redman

(Chicago, Ill.) Sixteen years a coal miner in West Virginia and 20 years a laborer in Chicago, 50-year-old Curly Redman is no longer able to work. The sugar diabetes he has and which went undetected for five or six years is uncontrollable, causing blackouts. Arthritis of the spine, aggravated by the diabetes, makes him unable to do the heavy lifting he was accustomed to as a construction worker. Unpredictably blurred vision, caused by the diabetes, makes it difficult for Mr. Redman to read and impossible for him to drive alone.

One thing diabetes hasn't done is destroy Curly Redman's ability to fight. For close to two years now, he has fought two battles — one for his health and decent medical care, the other against the Social Security Administration, to get the disability benefits (SSD) he was entitled to.

Until October 1976 Mr. Redman was working at Capital Cement. "I was a common laborer. If the big machine couldn't get in to pick up the concrete, we had to break it up and throw it in. Sometimes the slabs weighed 150 pounds. I quit because I was having trouble with my back and with my breathing." By March 1977 it was clear something was seriously wrong with Mr. Redman when he was sick for three weeks, lost a lot of weight and had to be taken to the hospital.

When Mr. Redman was admitted into Weiss Memorial Hospital he told the doctors of



Curly Redman: "I don't think a person, after working 30 or 40 years, should have to fight Social Security almost two years, like I did."

sharp, knife-like pains in his chest and abdomen and shortness of breath for several days. Lab tests confirmed the symptoms — Mr. Redman was having a diabetic crisis. Insulin and intraveneous feeding brought him out of the crisis, but for the rest of Mr. Redman's life, he would have to take daily insulin shots.

"After I got out of the hospital (nine days later), I figured I'd try to work because $9.20 an hour is a lot more money than you're ever going to get out of welfare or social security. I tried, and I couldn't make it. I kept passing out on the job. What part-time work I did wasn't over three days a week."

Meanwhile, Mr. Redman began seeing one doctor after another operating out of storefront clinics in Uptown. One doctor would prescribe the insulin and needles, but never gave him an actual examination. Another doctor would only prescribe 30 needles for a month when he needed 60 for the twice daily shots recommended. None of these doctors made a serious study of how different levels of insulin intake affected Mr. Redman's condition, and thus they could not control the diabetes. None of the doctors paid much attention to his breathing problems, despite the fact that he had worked in the mines for many years.

These storefront doctors were not just an obstacle in obtaining the medical care Curly Redman needed. They also didn't help enough in obtaining his disability benefits. Medical evidence is crucial in determining SSD eligibility. Most claims are turned down, not because the applicant is not disabled, but because he or she can't prove it. (See the "Hardship of Social Security," p. 7.) As with everyone who applies for disability, the burden was on Mr. Redman to obtain the information necessary.

When Mr. Redman first applied for SSD and Supplemental Security Income (SSI), stating simply "diabetes and shortness of breath" as the reasons for the disability, he

thought the records from Weiss Memorial would be sufficient. But the hospital records sent to Social Security were from Mr. Redman's discharge and stated that his diabetes was "under control." This first application was denied, as Social Security made no attempt to get information on Mr. Redman's current medical condition.

Immediately after being denied, Mr. Redman filed for reconsideration. This was in the fall of 1977. His physician at the time sent in a medical report describing several diabetic comas in the previous 11 months, consistent blackouts and "a random blood sugar of 200 mg %." (Normal readings are 80-110 mg %). Lacking in the report were the actual laboratory data and dates of the tests, information which the social security office could have obtained with a phone call. The call was never made, and Curly Redman was denied again, extending the time he and his two sons had to live on welfare.

By the time of the reconsideration denial, it was May 1978. Mr. Redman again pressed his case, requesting a hearing before an administrative law judge. His new doctor was sought repeatedly and eventually had to be cornered in her office to provide the medical information. Only with consistent demands did she state in writing that Mr. Redman's breathing problems were caused by chronic bronchitis. After two postponements, the hearing was finally held on September 8, 1978, before Administrative Law Judge Dale A. Garwal.

Upon hearing Mr. Redman's own testimony and that of a vocational expert and a Welfare Defense advocate, the judge gave Curly another week to get still additional evidence — another medical opinion and eyewitness accounts of the blackouts. The latter was most important because very rarely will diabetes alone provide enough grounds for disability. Jobs can be found for people who can't do heavy work, but few employers will hire someone who blacks out on the job. During that extra week, Mr. Redman and the welfare advocate steadfastedly obtained the new evidence. When that information was turned in, the judge had already decided in Mr. Redman's favor, *on the same evidence on which he had been denied before.*

Although Curly Redman has bitter feelings toward his doctors for the inadequate medical evaluations, treatment and cooperation he got from them, his real bitterness is directed at Social Security. "I don't think a person, after working 30 or 40 years, after paying into social security and then getting disabled from working, should have to fight for almost two years like I did, to win my case. They never did send me to their doctor or even tell me that they would pay to have a specialist give me an examination.

"They'll try anything to beat a person out of their money. There are so many people they beat out of it. Many give up, and I almost did myself. Now they are trying to cut my wife (common-law and therefore not legally recognized by Illinois) off SSI and put her on my claim. But it's not going to work. She's drawing from what she worked for, and I'm drawing from what I worked for. I told them, 'I've been fighting you a long time, and I'll fight you a little longer."□

The Hardship Of Social Security

(Chicago, Ill.) *"Under the Social Security law, it is the applicants' responsibility to provide the Social Security Administration with the documentation necessary to prove their disability. One of the most common reasons people are denied is for lack of or inadequate medical evidence."*

Social Security Administration employee — August 8, 1978

"The Social Security state agency, where the decisions are made, is set up to deny people. The pressure comes down on the claims examiners to deny more claims than they allow. If it is difficult to get information from a person's doctor, then that claim will not have the detailed medical evidence the examiner needs to prove the person is disabled according to the very strict rules and regulations.

"You only have a certain amount of time to get that evidence together, and if you can't, then you have to deny the claim or your supervisor will. You may be able to send the

person for a consultative exam by a specialist, but those doctors are under contract to Social Security, and their reports are generally not sympathetic to the applicant.

"The office is divided into 'allowers' and 'deniers,' and if you are an 'allower,' an examiner who tries to prove a person is disabled, then the 'higher-ups' put pressure on your supervisor to put pressure on you to make you change your attitudes."

Former Social Security claims examiner, state agency

"First of all, to win a battle you must know who your enemy is. In our case, it is the Social Security Administration. Black or White, we have this in common. We are all in this struggle together, and we must struggle together to win our disability benefits. We must fight against the unjust decisions that are placed upon us to rob us of benefits that we have worked hard for all our working lives. We must work as a united front to educate ourselves and each other both medically and legally to win our claims."

Social Security Defense Clinic member — September 27, 1978

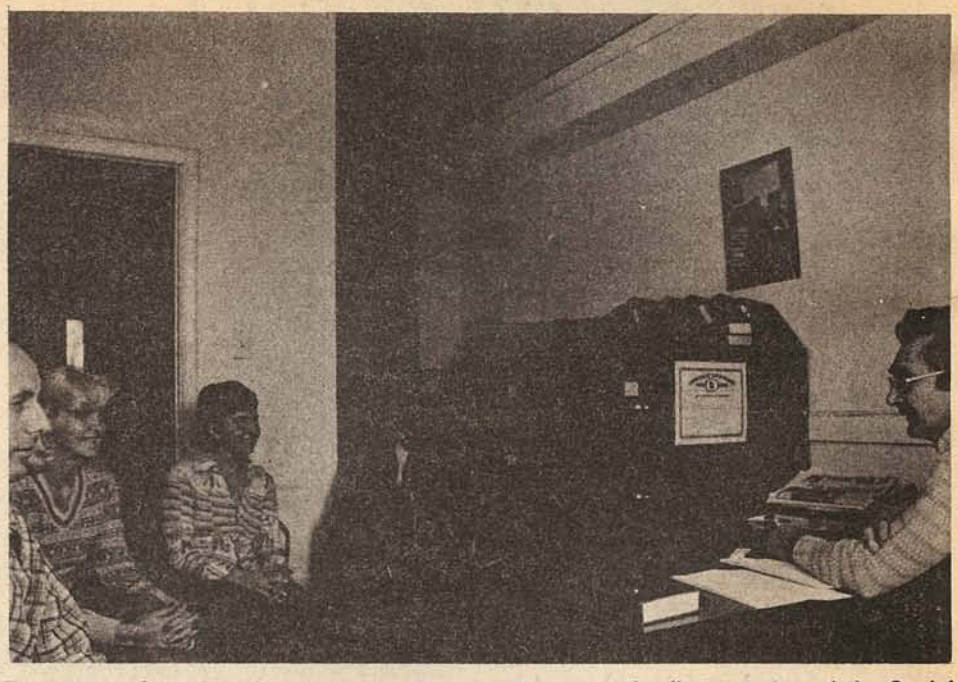
The Social Security Act was passed in 1937 as the federal government's response to the organized protest of millions of people to the desperate hardship they were experiencing during the Great Depression. These aged and unemployed people were demanding relief programs or guaranteed incomes that would allow them to live in dignity.

Some two million senior citizens were organized into clubs throughout the country. Their common interest was that most of them had worked hard all their lives and were put out of work by the Depression. In 1934 they demanded a guaranteed income of $200 per month for every citizen over 60 years of age.

When the federal government cut back on relief programs, the people would march and protest in massive numbers until the relief was reinstated. Those volatile protests were made during the early and mid-1930's.

The Social Security Act did not come close to meeting the needs and demands of the aged and the unemployed. It was never intended to. It was intended to quiet down the people's organized response to the unbearable conditions which everyone faced. And today, in 1978, the social security program still does not come close. It is intended to maintain, at the very lowest standards, those people who absolutely cannot hold a job.

In theory, the social security program was supposed to reduce hardship, but in fact it creates hardship. It creates hardships by denying benefits to disabled people who have worked hard all their lives; by denying, even in the law, any responsibility for gathering the necessary evidence to prove someone is disabled; by pretending that the benefits paid are sufficient to survive on.



Twenty people gathered to discuss common problems at the first meeting of the Social Security Defense Clinic.

The message from the Social Security Administration seems clear; it has no intention of trying to obtain the medical evidence or other evidence necessary to win disability claims. The bulk of the claims are denied because of lack of medical evidence. Approximately 60% are denied upon the first application, 50% on

reconsideration and 50% as the result of administrative law judge hearings. These facts point toward the positive results in appealing claims after the first denial.

The people of the Uptown community decided that it was time to build a structure to fight for their social security benefits. The first meeting of the Social Security Defense Clinic was held at the Uptown People's Community Service Center on Wednesday, September 27. Twenty people gathered together to discuss common problems, to share information and ideas and to create a plan for developing their own social security claims.

One Defense Clinic organizer, in explaining its purpose, said, "We plan to do their job for them. Because if we don't, they will continue to deny us. We are determined to win the benefits due us."□

Tenants' Rights

Kenmore Tenants: "We Won"

(Chicago, Ill.) Rose White, Cathy Tedder and Maxine French were smiling as they emerged from court at the Daley Center on October 4. "We won," Ms. White said quietly as she met a tenants' supporter waiting in the hallway. Cook County Judge Archibald Carey had just announced that a court-ordered receiver would take over the management and control of the building at 4302-04 N. Kenmore Street.

This decision was the outcome of a suit filed by Ms. White and other tenants against the building's owner, Bera Radovanovich, who had mismanaged the property for the nearly four years he had owned it.

The court order came three months to the day after the Kenmore tenants had informed Radovanovich that "...on July 23, 1978, the 4302-04 N. Kenmore Tenants Association was formed...as of August 1, all tenants shall withhold their rent."

The three intervening months had not been easy.

Maxine French worked with other tenants for months to insure that the building at 4302 N. Kenmore would stay up.

Toilets continued to not flush, heat stayed off, the hole in the back wall stayed open to wind and rain, and the plaster cracked and flaked even more. Radovanovich added new complaints to the old list when he allowed gas and scavenger services to be cut off. The landlord's next move was to file eviction actions, and his attorney even began threatening the tenants with a suit for "conspiracy and collusion."

But, the families stood firm. As Rose White put it, "We saw one real chance to change the conditions here, and we took it." The rents were placed in a bank account for the association. Everyone agreed to start paying the same rent which had differed in some cases by $50 a month even though all the apartments were the same. The tenants repaired the roof and fixed broken windows. When the suit was finally filed, the tenants had lined up a welding company to repair the furnace that had been cracked since last March.

With this chain of events as background, the owner and his attorney were stunned by the court's decision on October 4. Just minutes before the hearing began, Radovanovich flatly rejected a plan from the tenants, prepared in early September, to repair the building. The appointment of a receiver forces the landlord out of the picture and makes repairs the top priority. In addition, Radovanovich must stop any pending eviction ac-

tions filed against the tenants.

Carey's court decision reaffirms the broad scope of tenants' rights ignored by Illinois courts until recent years when the issue was forced to the surface by public pressure. As the attorney for the tenants, Steve Seliger commented that "The case is very simple and very common, no matter how complicated the court process seems to make it: the landlord buys the building, pockets the money and ignores the tenants. The building becomes dangerous. The tenants have a right to stop that process. Simple."

Initial reaction to the tenants' victory was positive throughout the neighborhood surrounding the building. Having spread the news herself, Maxine French advised neighbors that "Everybody else should do what we did. People ought to start more tenants unions, because, to be honest, there are a lot of buildings in worse shape than ours, and we should force the landlords to fix them up — all of them."□

Rents Rise In Rogers Park

(Chicago, Ill.) Rising rents are becoming an increasing problem in Chicago's northside community of Rogers Park, according to a recent survey conducted by the Rogers Park Tenants Committee. Roughly 20% of tenants surveyed complained that rent increases had forced them to move or said they would have to move when the next increase comes.

David Orr and Tobey Prinz, organizers of the Rogers Park Tenants Committee.

Senior citizens have been particularly hit by the recent rash of rent raises. The survey found that 65% of those over 65 now pay 30% or more of their income for rent. Forty-one percent of tenants under 65 spend over 25% of their income on rents.

David Orr, spokesperson for the Rogers Park Tenants Committee, (and candidate for City Council in the 49th ward), pointed out that the average rent increase in October will be 11%, a figure higher than the 7 to 11% increase predicted by local real estate agencies. Many tenants complained that rent increases or lease terminations had come after they had decorated or maintained their apartments at their own expense, Orr went on to say.

Not surprisingly, rent increases are not the only problem tenants face in Rogers Park. Over half of the 740 tenants surveyed in August reported poor services from their landlords. Common complaints revealed by the survey include:

- inadequate or no maintenance and/or janitorial service;
- unsatisfactory garbage collection;
- insufficient heat and/or hot water;
- roaches and rodents;
- inadequate or no decorating;
- poor building security;
- failure to pay interest on security deposits.

In response to these increasing problems, "The Rogers Park Tenants Committee has called for the creation of a Fair Rent Commission which could serve both tenants and landlords," explained Tobey Prinz, co-chairperson of the Tenants Committee. "The survey only underscores again the need for such an agency, particularly as the city's Housing Rent Complaint Bureau has been so sadly ineffective."□

From Hyde Park To Evanston Condominium Challenge Widens

(Chicago, Ill.) The battle over condominium conversions in Hyde Park intensified in September as condo opponents began a campaign to withdraw funds from Hyde Park Federal

Savings and Loan (HPFS). Started by the Ad Hoc Tenants Committee, the withdrawal campaign is seen as "the strongest weapon to force the Savings and Loan Association to cooperate."

The condo fight in Hyde Park was taken up by the 53-54 Woodlawn-Kimbark Block Club when three corner buildings on their block became targets for HPFS conversions. Fuel was added to the fire when the Savings and Loan tried to trick the block's homeowners into giving up their back yards and garages through a "beautification" program actually designed to lure potential condo buyers. (See KEEP STRONG, Sept. 1978.) The homeowners refused HPFS's deal, thus effectively stopping the bank's land grab. But to stop the conversions of the corner buildings, Block Club members realized they had to broaden their efforts. Turning to other renters threatened with condo conversion, the Block Club linked up with the tenants of the 143-unit Sherry Apartment which houses a large number of senior citizens. A moratorium on all condominium conversions in Hyde Park was called for, and when it became apparent that action had to be taken, the Ad Hoc Tenants Committee was formed.

Repeated meetings with Paul Berger, president of HPFS, failed to produce even a compromise. Berger refused to consider alternatives such as conversion to tenant-owned cooperative housing or variable rent plans with rents adjusted according to actual costs and "reasonable" profits. Berger wouldn't budge, and the withdrawal campaign was started.

The campaign against HPFS has gained momentum. Over 400 have pledged to withdraw their accounts.

The campaign, now in its second month, is gaining momentum, as 400 people have pledged to withdraw their accounts from HPFS. According to Milt Cohen, of the Block Club, these accounts could amount to a half-million dollars.

Meanwhile, in the northern suburb of Evanston, a 90 day moratorium on condominium conversions is about to enter its third month as aldermen there are developing a new condominium ordinance. However, many tenants of the middle class suburb doubt that a new condo ordinance will provide enough protection for tenants and thus guarantee a continued rental market in Evanston.

The ordinance now being considered would provide some protections such as a seven month period before a tenant, not buying his or her apartment, would have to move. In addition, tenants would be able to break existing leases without penalty, upon receiving notice of a pending condo conversion. Also, developers would have to go through a series of steps before actual conversion in order to get city approval.

Evanston tenants fighting condominium conversions feel the proposed measure, though tougher than existing law, does not go far enough and has loopholes which developers such as William Dec would take advantage of. For example, Dec informed the tenants at 400 Ridge of his intention to convert on August 7, thinking he could slide by the moratorium which would be passed by the city council August 17. When the council made the moratorium retroactive to July 11, Dec sued the city, only to lose his case in court.

Representatives of the Tenants Organization of Evanston (TOE) point to Evanston's low vacancy rate (less than one unit vacant per 100 units) in their demand for greater tenant protections in any new measure concerning condominiums. Not

only is the vacancy rate low, but, according to 400 Ridge tenant Richard Darling, "There is no available building land. What's here is all that's here." In recent years, the number of rental units has greatly dwindled, with over 10% of all units in multiple family dwellings new condominiums.

It is for these reasons that TOE continues to press for an ordinance which would tie condo conversions to the vacancy rate. TOE has proposed its own ordinance which would create an automatic moratorium whenever the vacancy rate was less than five percent. With a moratorium in effect, a developer could only convert with the approval of 67% of the tenants. In addition, the TOE proposal would require 20% of all units to remain rental in a building with at least six units.

Ann Rainey, an organizer for TOE, put it this way, "The ordinance should include a provision on conversions tied to vacancy rates or a limit on the number of tenants who could purchase (35%), for one reason and one reason only — there are two women (in 400 Ridge) who have lived there 52 years."

Ms. Rainey blamed the rash of condo conversions on Evanston's landlord lobby which she says is "the biggest and best organized. The city acts as if they are beholden to the landlord interest group. Because of the landlord lobby, the city has refused to enforce building codes." Ms. Rainey suggested that developers were dumping buildings onto the condo market which in a few years will need extensive repairs. "Middle and even upper-income people who buy condo units will be unable to replace $40,000 roofs and $20,000 boilers."□

Education

Access To Excellence — Only For A Few

(Chicago, Ill.) Access to Excellence, Chicago's voluntary desegregation plan, has come under increasing criticism since school began in September. Joseph Hannon and the Board of Education developed this program after threats that unless a reasonable desegregation plan was adopted in Chicago, they would be faced with a cut-off of state and federal funds. Approximately 14% of the school budget comes from the federal government, 49% from the state and 37% from the city.

A pattern of the city ignoring state and federal guidelines has existed since 1961. The new plan, Access to Excellence, has still not met state or federal guidelines, and the Board of Education is again in danger of losing its funds.

According to the Board, the Access to Excellence program will promote voluntary transfer of students throughout the public school system, thereby achieving desegregation. Selected grammar, middle and high schools in the city offer special programs, including basic skills tutoring, aviation, career development and technical training in trade schools. In most cases the students are

School Superintendent Hannon and the Board of Education developed Access to Excellence after threats that unless a reasonable desegregation plan was adopted, Chicago schools would lose state and federal funds.

bussed to and from school free if they are Access to Excellence participants.

The plan, however, is both costly and complicated. The courses that are available to a student depends greatly on where he or she lives and how well he or she is doing in school. The Access to Excellence program has been criticized severely because the majority of the funds are not going to the schools with the greatest need, but rather to those that are already undercrowded, with less problems and more resources. Hannon's claim is that Black and other minority students will be more attracted to the white schools and will thereby voluntarily integrate them.

Critics point out that the cost of educating a child attending the Access to Excellence program is $1,426, while the amount of money spent on each child who doesn't participate in the program is about $529. Out of 520,000 students in the entire school system, the program can only accommodate 62,000 students this year at full capacity. The present enrollment is less than 10,000.

Why, critics say, is this money going into the schools that need it the least, while whole neighborhoods are being written off by this plan?

Irate parents from the Chicago Public Schools Parents Union charge that:

- *Access to Excellence* was created without parent participation, a blatant violation of the state law;

Critics say Access to Excellence will funnel money to schools that need it the least, while whole neighborhoods are written of by the plan.

- *Access to Excellence* denies programs to those school districts most in need;

- *Access to Excellence* is designed to divide communities by forcing them to compete for a few available seats in the program;

- *Access to Excellence* may strike a blow to bilingual education which is now required by both Illinois law and Chicago's 1977 agreement with H.E.W. No specific provision is made for students in need of bilingual education to participate in any of the general Access programs;

- *Access to Excellence's* effect on special education is uncertain, and this is an area that needs much more attention than the plan now calls for;

- *Access to Excellence* juggles students without regard to desegregation or any other meaningful education goal. It allows the Board of Education to solve its financial crisis by fraudulently applying for additional state and federal monies in the name of desegregation.

Critics further demand that the special programs available only to a few through the Access to Excellence program be available in every school in the city, with a priority on developing those schools in poor neighborhoods that are underserved and overcrowded.□

New Stockton School Principal Speaks

(Chicago, Ill.) *On October 2, a new principal began at Stockton Elementary School. In this issue,* KEEP STRONG *has given Carl Lieberman the opportunity to express his intentions as Stockton's new principal. The following article is his response. We encourage parents who have children at Stockton to tell Mr. Lieberman if they agree with him and tell him if they do not. Most of all, we encourage parents from the Heart of Uptown to become vocal in the education of their children.*

"A great many challenges face me as I assume the duties of principal of Stockton Elementary School. I have been asked to consider some of these problems and how to deal with them in this article. First, allow me to introduce myself and give the readers some background information. I, Carl Lieberman, have been working in the public schools of Chicago for twenty years. As a teacher at Jenner (Cabrini-Green Projects) and Yates (Humboldt Park), I worked with minority students and parents. As Principal of Samuel F.B. Morse for 11 years, I dealt with a multitude of problems facing a primarily Black community and school. At Morse I worked with parents to help develop a community organization, the 28th Ward Action Council, into a viable force which served the community and school. Thus, I have had a great deal of experience working on school and community problems.

One of the most pressing problems facing Stockton and every public education institution will be meeting increased educational expectations with diminishing resources (dollars). One goal for the staff will have to be the achievement of the most output (educational results) for the least cost. This will necessitate input from parents, community agencies and members and staff on setting priorities and sticking to them relative to the educational program. One of the priorities will no doubt be a *basic* reading and language development program. However, can we give this the emphasis it deserves and still devote the necessary time to other aspects of the curriculum, such as fine arts and physical education? I think we can and must. What it will take is better management of time and a sharing or responsibility by both staff and parents. The instruction will be provided by the classroom teacher, but a good portion of the reinforcement will have to fall on the parent.

Carl Lieberman, with 20 years experience in the Chicago public schools, is the new principal at Stockton Elementary School.

What I am saying is that the parent will have to become a *full* partner in the educational process. To shirk this obligation is to deny the child a significant portion of his education. As resources keep getting the tax dollar squeeze, parents and other community agencies will have to assume their share of the educational process. After school, extracurricular type programs once offered by the schools may have to be housed by boys clubs, Y's and community centers. However, the schools should be expected to share their expertise and material resources. At Stockton sharing will take place between the school and many commun-

ity agencies.

Another problem facing Stockton are the complex social relationships facing a multi-ethnic student and community population. Let me state that one of the great strengths of Stockton and the part of the Uptown community it serves is its diverse membership. However, understanding appreciation for others' heritage and culture is sometimes lost for lack of understanding another's language, style, mannerisms, and/or background.

The staff at Stockton will work hard to allow for numerous contacts between parents and students to engage in open honest communication. While this is the objective for the staff, my personal goal will be to establish credibility with the community through building a climate of *mutual* trust and respect. This means that *all* parents will have easy access to the school and its administration. The school's participation in community activities, which aim at improving the welfare of the students and Stockton community, will be encouraged and increased. At the same time, parents', community members' and agencies' active participation with and in conjunction with the school will be sought.

Expansion of the school council to include a broad representative base of parents from the Stockton community will be one of the prime objectives for the 1978-79 school year. An atmosphere of give and take and input from parents will be encouraged and utilized in the development of programs to foster communications among students and parents. Also, the Community Development Health Services Career Center program will foster greater communication/participation between the school and community.

During the year three activities will be aimed at increasing school-parent contacts and communication: (1) a pilot parent program to help their children in the area of reading; (2) an outdoor art fair; and (3) a reading carnival. These types of activities should strengthen understanding and foster harmony between and among the diverse ethnic groups Stockton serves.

Many parents are probably asking what is being done about students' lack of proficiency in the area of reading. This is a most legitimate concern and is the main priority I have for Stockton School. Student progress will be closely monitored using the results of (CRT) Criterion Referenced Testing and the mastery of skills. Students will progress on the basis of performance. Parents will be well informed on the progress and/or problems students have in the area of reading. Periodic reports will be sent to parents and opportunities for conferences will be plentiful. Early intervention and presentation of reading activities at an early age (3-5) will be part of the Stockton program. The parents will have to become well informed on what activities are being given to the students. Thus, parents will have to attend workshops, conferences, etc. to become a full partner in the reading/learning process.

In summary, parents and the community will be asked to expand their roles as full partners in the educational process. The school will have to expand its efforts to encourage parent and community participation. Investment of time and effort by the school and its community will result in students prepared to handle the problems of the future.□

Our children demand that we become vocal in their education.

Students' Corner

The Importance Of History

(Chicago, Ill.) *The following essay was written by Butch Stripling, a first year student at the Uptown Community Learning Center, an extension of Shimer College. Students in the American History class were asked to think about the importance of studying and understanding the history of the American people.*

It's important to me to know about my family years ago. I want to know their history. I want to know how much things have changed in years.

I want to check out some papers I have which are letters and newspapers that go all the way back to 1719 or 1819.

I am Irish, German and Indian. I want to know about my people and what has happened to them. I am very interested in the Kennedys and in Martin Luther King. I do not believe that the people they say killed these men really did kill these men.

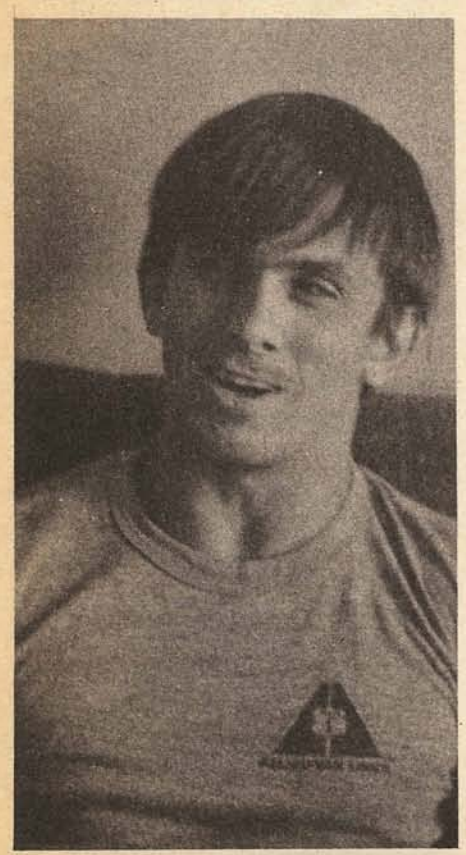
In history, I'm not sure I'm going to learn that much, but I'm going to try my best.

My father used to tell me about his experience in World War II. He was a machine gunner. He used to talk about eating out of garbage cans. I still think about this sometimes and don't feel like eating myself anymore. Talking with my father also made me think it was sad to see people get killed every day. So I hope I will not have to fight in a war.

I have a feeling that my father's war experience had something to do with him being a hard-drinking man. His drinking had to do with his getting cirrhosis of the liver and dying young. So I think that war hurts people.

I want to study why wars happen so they don't happen again and hurt my people.

I want to know why they are making the United States people interfere with other people's business. I think we should fight for our country, and that's it.□



Butch Stripling: "I want to know about my people and what has happened to them."

Health News

Child With T.B. Ignored By City Clinic Is Treated By Uptown People's Health Center

(Chicago, Ill.) The Uptown People's Health Center has now been open for two months. Murray Brown, the Daley-Bilandic appointed "czar" of the city's Board of Health, in seeking to prevent the health center from becoming a reality, had alleged that Uptown was "overserved" medically and that the presence of a Board of Health clinic in Uptown made the new community-controlled comprehensive health center unnecessary. The political forces for which Brown works

have continued their attempt to undermine the UPHC since the day it opened.

It is not only the fact that over 1,000 patients have already been seen and over 300 free back-to-school physicals have been conducted that proves the falseness of Brown's argument. Perhaps more significant than the number of people at the clinic is the qualitative difference in health care that people can now receive. The following case, reported to KEEP STRONG by a health advocate representing the community board which governs the UPHC, is an example.

A Latina woman from Uptown brought her young child to the Board of Health clinic in July 1978. The baby had been treated at Cook County Hospital for T.B. The woman had found it very difficult to keep traveling to Cook County Hospital so she decided to go to the Board of Health clinic at Hazel and Wilson. She made several visits to Hazel and Wilson, and each time she explained that the child had been treated for T.B. at County Hospital. They seemed to ignore this, and the child was never given any medicine. The mother noticed that the child's wheezing continued to get worse. Still, no one at the Board of Health clinic thought there was any significant problem.

At this time the woman had the good fortune to make contact with Ms. Debbie Wallins, a visiting nurse who observed that the child had a visible breathing problem. Ms. Wallins accompanied the woman to the Board of Health clinic to attempt to help her clarify the situation. When they arrived there, Ms. Wallins heard a nurse remark, "Oh, there's *that* family again. We had a lot of trouble with them last year. We had to help her get a winter coat for her child." They spoke to the supervising nurse and explained what they were concerned about. A doctor then saw the child. Ms. Wallins commented, "I wasn't allowed to examine the chart, but when the doctor took the chart out, I could see that something was already on it about a stated history of T.B.

"The doctor told the mother that nothing was wrong and gave the baby some cough syrup that was just an expectorant. I found this hard to believe because I could see that the child was suffering from wheezing, and I knew that the mother believed there was a history of T.B."

Ms. Wallins then informed the doctor that the mother had some bronchodilators (anti-wheezing medicine) left from several months ago which she had kept refrigerated and that the mother wanted to know if it would be a good idea to use them. The doctor stated, as an afterthought, to "go ahead and use it."

At about this time the UPHC first opened its doors, and Ms. Wallins heard about it. She suggested to the mother that they try it out. Ms. Wallins reports that the pediatrician took a very thorough medical history, carefully noting everything the mother had to say. Then the pediatrician promptly sent to Cook County Hospital for the records. The records revealed that the child had T.B. and that the treatment was not yet finished. The pediatrician sent for the medicine at Cook County Hospital (the UPHC's pharmacy is still in the process of being set up). When the medicine arrived at the clinic,

On Saturday, September 16, presentations by members of the community board of the clinic and the Cook County Health and Hospitals Governing Commission marked the official opening of the Uptown People's Health Center.

volunteer advocates promptly delivered it to the mother so that the treatment could be resumed without delay.

Both Ms. Wallins and the mother were as happy with the Uptown People's Health Center as they were disturbed by the Board of Health clinic.

The questions raised by the Board of Health's handling of this case are disturbing indeed. When the woman talked to the doctors and told them there was a history of T.B., did they bother to send for the records? Or did they send for them and simply ignore the fact that the child still needed to be treated for T.B.? In either case their inaction was clearly inexcusable. When the child came in visibly suffering from wheezing, what went through the doctor's mind — that the woman was too poor (without even a medical card) to deserve the best possible care and medicine?

Commenting on the case, a community health advocate said, "The opening of the UPHC means that now people in our community are able to go to a clinic where the doctors are serious and respectful enough to listen carefully to the patients' complaints and histories. It also means that people can go to a place where quality health care comes before the question of money."

The well attended opening of the clinic provided an opportunity for hundreds of people to see the center's facility and meet the medical staff who have been seeing patients by appointment since early August.

Given the contrast between what really happens at the Board of Health clinic and what happens at the Uptown People's Health Center, it seems very unlikely that the people of the community who fought so hard to get the clinic will let Brown, machine alderman Axelrod or anyone else take it away.□

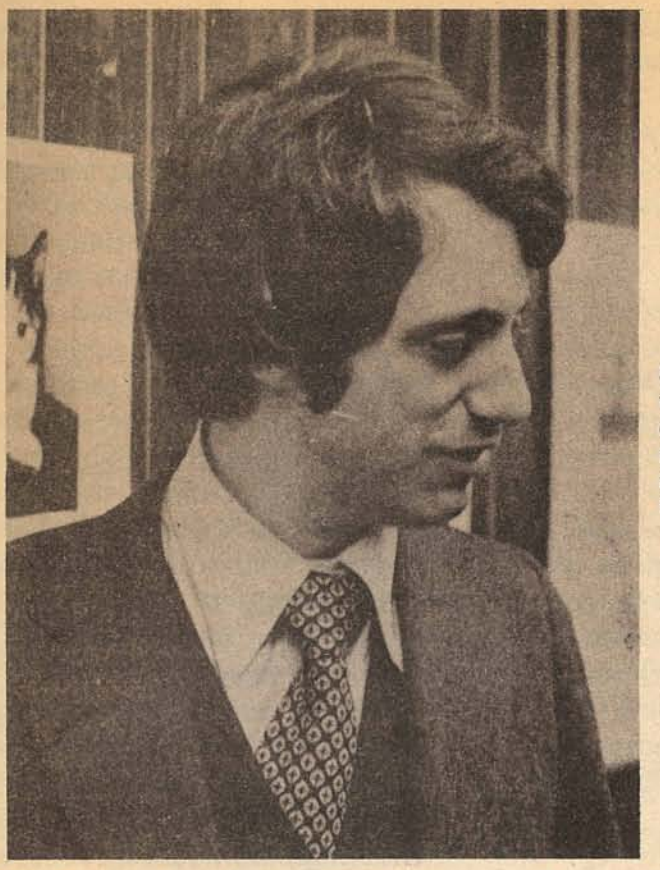
Consumer News

Million Dollar Insurance Racket Cited In Serious Complaint

(Chicago, Ill.) A coalition of senior citizens, civic organizations and State Representative Ellis Levin has charged that the Illinois Department of Insurance has failed to enforce laws that protect senior citizens.

In their complaint filed with the state insurance department, they also exposed a deceptive insurance selling operation. The complaint names the Colonial Penn Insurance Group, Inc. (based in Delaware).

The Colonial Penn Group includes Colonial Penn Franklin Insurance Company, Colonial Penn Life Insurance Company, Colonial Penn Insurance Company, the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and the National Retired



State Rep. Ellis Levin worked with senior citizens for several months to compile the facts about the Colonial Penn operation in Illinois.

Teachers Association (NRTA). All these companies sell insurance to senior citizens throughout the United States.

Although both the AARP and the NRTA claim to be independent associations organized to protect the interests of their members, the Coalition charges that they are, in fact, dominated, controlled and financed ($11 million a year) by Colonial Penn.

Evidence of this charge includes the following facts:

- Leonard Davis, founder of Colonial Penn Group, Inc., is honorary president of both AARP and NRTA;
- The trustees of the AARP Insurance Trust (AARP members buy group insurance from Colonial Penn) were initially picked by Leonard Davis. They have the authority to choose their own successors, independent of the AARP board;
- Colonial Penn Group has exclusive control over AARP and NRTA membership lists which are stored in Colonial Penn computers;
- Colonial Penn exercises tremendous control over the membership publications of AARP and NRTA;
- AARP and NRTA recommend only Colonial Penn products to their members, and products that are not sold or offered by Colonial Penn cannot be advertised in their membership magazines;
- The Colonial Penn health insurance that AARP recommends to its members was found to have the least protection of any medigap policy (insurance covering bills not paid by the federal medicare program) studied by *Consumer Reports* in January 1976;
- Colonial Penn payout rates (amount of money paid in benefits against money collected in premiums) are among the worst in the country. In 1974 group health insurance companies returned about 90.6% in paid claims, while Colonial Penn returned only 61.2% in benefits.

The complaint also says that Colonial Penn has not complied with minimum state requirements to file copies of policies, certificates or application forms with the state insurance department for approval, before using them on the public.

Sources indicate that in the last ten years medigap insurance has grown tremendously within the insurance business, taking hundreds of millions of dollars out of the pockets of unsuspecting older Americans. This widespread deception, called medi-scare, is practiced in a variety of packages by seven or eight large insurance companies, including Colonel Penn.

John Huschler, speaking for the Coalition, pointed to two solicitations which had been sent to him. One was from a phony outfit selling group health insurance. The other was from a group he had never done business with telling him that his insurance had expired, but they would reinstate him without penalty if he acted

immediately. Both letters were easily traced back to Colonial Penn.

The complaint filed by the Coalition and Levin asks the state insurance department to stop new sales of Colonial Penn Franklin group insurance until a full investigation can be completed.

Only a few days after the Coalition's September 17 announcement, the president of Colonial Penn was in Chicago trying to plead his case. On September 28 the company purchased $12,000 worth of advertising in the city's two major daily papers. The advertising was a weak attempt to defend the company's record and try to make the senior coalition and Rep. Levin appear to be "vigilantes. . . meting out the harshest punishment on the flimsiest" evidence.

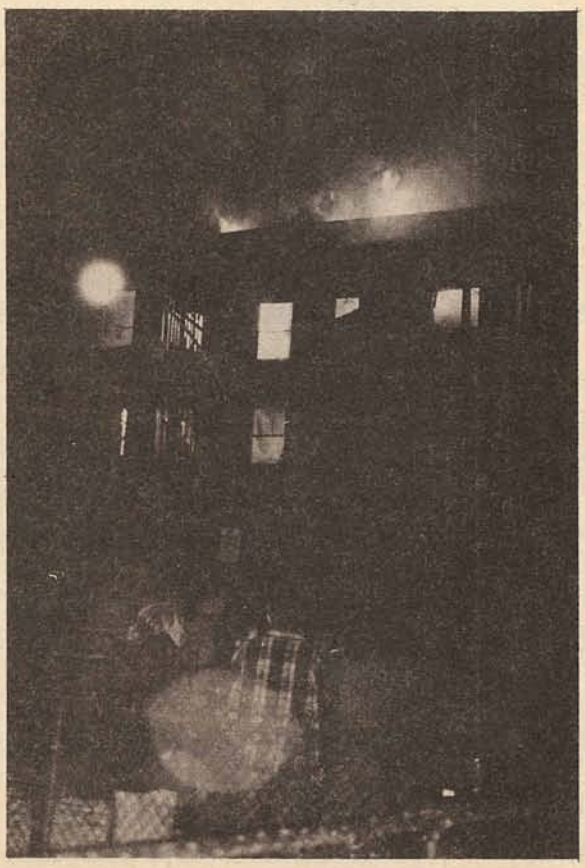
Reached at his office, State Rep. Levin termed the company's response evasive and distorted. The advertising, he pointed out, fails to refute the main charge that Colonial Penn operates the two associations only as a mechanism to sell its insurance in a ready market. He went on to say that the main problem is that the Department of Insurance is afraid to move against the large company.□

Utility Abuse Bills Get Governor's Signature

(Springfield, Ill.) The sudden cutoff of vital gas, electric or water services to apartment buildings most often forces the tenants from their buildings, leaving the empty or half-empty building ripe for the arsonist's torch. This pattern of housing destruction, currently being played out in Uptown, was weakened when Illinois lawmakers passed a new Utility Abuse bill which gives, for the first time, a weapon to the tenants to fight back; court-appointed rent receivership.

Under the new law, for the first time, the tenants will be notified that a utility is about to be shut off. The landlord will be given a ten day notice. If no payment is received after five days, then the tenants will receive notice, either in the mail or through large signs posted in the building. Thus the tenants will be able to go to court before the utility is cut, and the judge will appoint a receiver (a third party who will collect the rents) and order the utility company not to shut off service.

Julie Hamos, an attorney with Legal Aid's legislative lobbying staff in Springfield who actually wrote the original bill, explained the limitations of the receivership. "It is a limited receivership. The receiver will collect the rents each month and will be told by the court how much to pay toward current bills and back bills by installment." After the utilities are paid, the remaining rent would be sent to the owner. Ms. Hamos also pointed out that an amendment of the bill requires the receiver to make a report within ten



The sudden cut-off of vital services, like gas, water and electricity has left many buildings ripe for the arsonist's torch.

days on whether the income of the building would be enough to pay off current and past bills within a year's time. If not, the receivership will be ended and the building most likely lost.

Some observers feels that this measure does not go far enough. They argue that the real beneficiaries are the utility companies. These observers see a year's time as too short to get the building back on its feet, not only with the utility companies but with the necessary repairs which would most likely only be done by a receiver appointed by the tenants themselves.

Meanwhile, state legislators passed another bill aimed at curtailing the tapping of utility lines. The testimony of a southside Chicago woman at hearings on the bill was key in the passage of the bill. The woman, Emma Haynes, had established gas cooking service only since she thought her heat was covered by the landlord.

After each of the first two months of service, Ms. Haynes received bills close to $50 per month. Not having much experience with utility bills, she paid the bills though she thought they were high. Over the next four months, she found out what high bills really were — close to $1,000 per month. When she notified the gas company, they came out to the building and discovered that her line was tapped into, but was told there was nothing they could do since the tap was on her side of the meter. It was her problem to find out who was doing the tapping. When her service was finally cut, ten other apartments and one business also lost their gas.

This case is typical. Landlords who themselves lose service because of non-payment often establish continued service for their tenants by tapping into a tenant's line without his or her knowledge or consent, though in some cases the tenant is brought into the deal in exchange for free rent.

Under the new bill, the utility company, for the first time, would have to investigate the situation either by physically examining the premises or through an extensive check of past and present gas usage records for the building.

Ms. Hamos of Legal Aid pointed out that this bill fell short of fixing blame for the illegal tap, which amounts to theft of utility service. Instead, the investigation is aimed at determining who benefits by the tap and provides a remedy only when it is the landlord who benefits. As in the utility cutoff bill, the landlord would be taken to court and the building placed in receivership.□

"Who's Picking Whose Pocket?"

(Chicago, Ill.) When Martha Belano and her husband Bud needed a sleeper sofa last November, they got more than they bargained for. The Belanos got a sleeper, a living room chair to match, two end tables and a coffee table — all at reduced prices. General Finance Company would take care of the reduced price at 18% interest monthly while the Belanos would pay another price: deception, insults and harassment. These extras were not mentioned on the tags affixed to each of the living room pieces. They came with

Credit power translates to 18% interest for fourth-rate merchandise at Nelson Brothers.

late delivery and again 11 months later when the Belanos were billed for the sleeper a second time.

One Tuesday last November, in the Nelson Brothers showroom at Broadway and Gunnison, Mrs. Belano emphasized to the salesman their need for a sleeper sofa. "I was sleeping on the living room floor at the time." She asked to see the sofa advertised in the Sunday paper at $299.99, down from $349. After assuring Mrs. Belano that the sleeper was in stock and would be delivered C.O.D. in two days ($100 down), the salesman convinced the Belanos to buy a matching chair and some living room tables. The total bill came to $675, so the next day the Belanos arranged a $755 loan.

When the delivery men arrived, they had the chairs and tables, but no sofa. "I got very angry and got into a big argument with the delivery men. I was promised the sofa was in stock."

The delivery man insisted on full payment which Mrs. Belano at first refused to do. But finally, tired of arguing, Mrs. Belano did pay the whole $575 after the delivery man marked the receipt "Paid, Back Order." Later she discovered he only signed his first name. A call to the main Nelson Bros. warehouse assured Mrs. Belano that she would receive her sofa in a week. But it was two weeks before the sofa came. "The way the delivery man (the first one) was acting, I was leery." But everything seemed to be in order, and there were no C.O.D. charges, as the delivery man said.

"I heard nothing from Nelson Bros. until 11 months later when I got a bill telling me I owed them $175 for the sofa." The salesman at the Broadway store knew nothing about it but suggested Mrs. Belano call a Mr. Berg at the credit office.

"He was one nasty character. He said, 'If you can't prove that you paid to *my satisfaction*, be sure to bring the money to pay for it.' He called me a gyp and a deadbeat because I didn't pay his bill. I was very upset. My husband has been working 21 years, and we have never refused to pay a bill we legitimately owed."

When Mrs. Belano received some more calls from Nelson Brothers' representatives, she told them they couldn't keep calling her, that it was harassment. Their reply was, "This isn't harassment. You haven't seen anything yet. Wait until we turn it over to a collection agency."

Seeking legal advice, Mrs. Belano contacted an attorney who referred her to the Uptown People's Community Service Center. Advocates from the Service Center contacted Nelson Bros., and their first response was, "She does owe it, and she's going to pay it."

Soon afterward Mrs. Belano received a call from the downtown Nelson Bros. office and was told the bill was dropped. "Evidently the delivery man did turn the money in, but somewhere along the line there had to be an error in bookkeeping or someone with sticky fingers. But if it didn't compute, why didn't it come out then? Why 11 months later? I'm still sitting on edge. I don't trust them for nothing. If they came back in 11 months, what's to say they won't come back in six months."

This incident has made Mrs. Belano look more closely at the credit terms arranged. "It's handy when you're backed in the corner, and you have no

Look What You Get!
LUXURIOUS 7-PIECE LIVING ROOM • ELEGANT 4-PIECE BEDROOM • BEAUTIFUL 5-PIECE DINET
—"The Economy" 3-Room Outfit . . . For $888 at Nelson Brothers—
Ask f
10-20
PA
Pl
USE YOUR CREDIT POWER WITH NELSON BROTHERS' 10-20-30 PAYMENT PLAN
$48.80 DOWN*
Delivers All 3 Rooms

When the Belanos bought a living room set from Nelson Brothers, the extra costs — deception, insults and harassment — were not on the price tags.

cash, and you have no other way to go. But people had better think. I've made ten payments — $410 so far — but I still owe $569 on the principle. They're going to make almost $700 on a $755 loan, over a 36 month period."

When Mrs. Belano called the credit agent at General Finance and told him she was going to pay off the balance, the agent pleaded with her, "Don't do that! You're breaking my heart. You're the best customer we've had since 1965. Not only that, you're picking my pocket, because I'm making a percentage." (*Note: Belano is not the real name of the couple involved. They were afraid their credit reference would be damaged if their real names were used.*)□

Behind The Faces

Walter Blalock

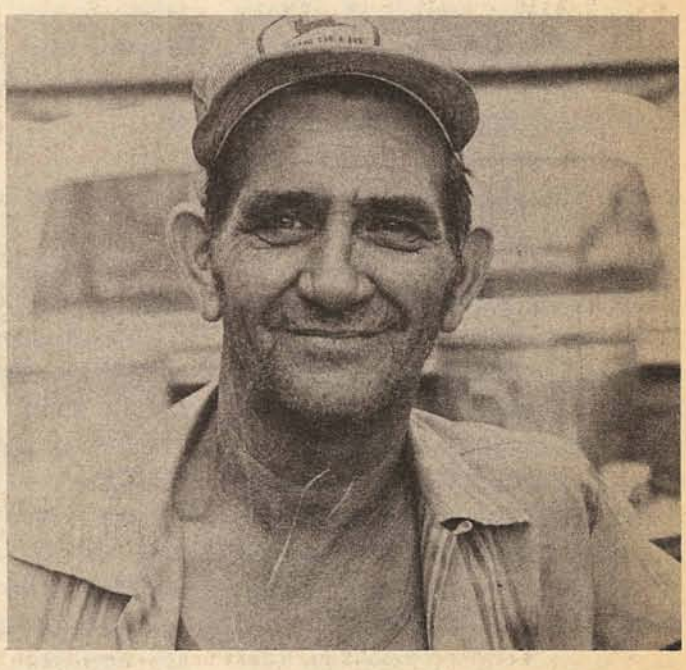
(Chicago, Ill.) "I've been doing car work about 25 years, I guess. I used to be into it big, before I retired. Now I'm retired, I draw my social security, and I try to make a little bit on the side so I can live a little better. There's nothing wrong with that, I don't think. I can't do that much, I got high blood. Sometimes I have to crawl out from under a car and stand there for an hour, to get myself straightened out. Then I go back. I come from North Carolina. I was born and raised down there. I just had a big birthday the 20th day of July, 57 years old.

"We do quite a load of work for the different people. For instance, the poor people can't afford to take their cars to another garage where they charge two or three times the price. We done a job for a guy just a couple of days ago. If he were to take it to another garage, it would have cost him at least twice as much as we charged him. We do transmission work. If we got a transmission we could sell him, we'd sell it for $75, stand behind it for 30 days. If it goes out in 30 days, we'll put another one in it and still don't charge him a dime. We try out the transmissions to be sure they are working good before we put them in a man's car. I'm this way — I want a man to be satisfied with what I do for him. Am I right?

"I used to own my own service station and grocery store. I had a big farm which was willed to me by my grandfather. My oldest son lives on it now and works it. He's got 1,800 head of cattle there. It's a wonderful life, but after I got up here, I just don't want to go back.

"To tell you the truth, the law got so hard on me down home. I used to make the moonshine, and that's what brought me up here. They suspended me out of the state of North Carolina for five years for moonshining. I don't mind telling you because everybody knows it anyhow. So I just stayed here five years. They would allow me two weeks back in North Carolina, then I'd have to leave after two weeks — for five years. They thought that was a big crime.

"But you see I had five kids



"To tell you the truth, the law got so hard on me down home. I used to make the moonshine, and that's what brought me up here. They suspended me out of the state of North Carolina for five years for moonshining."

back in 1949. Times was hard then down there, but you'd make a little moonshine to feed your family and get along pretty good. At that time you could get 100 pounds of sugar for $5. I'd take that $5 and turn it into $65 or $70, making moonshine. So that way I raised my family and didn't go hungry and sent them to school. They put me in the penitentiary a few times for making it, but I don't feel bad about it. Then I lost my family. The kids came back to me, but she remarried, and I remarried. Then I came back here.

"Everybody told me to go to the welfare. I didn't know what welfare was. We don't have that down south. Well, they have a little bit, but you got to be 70 or 80 years old before you get any welfare down there."

"I got a son who works down there now, making $4.75 an hour. He's a boss man in a cloth factory. That's a pretty fair price down there. In fact, it's a *good* price. I got another son who's a construction worker. He's making $9.50 an hour, but he's on a dangerous job, up in the air, like these big bridges. I tried to get him not to take it, but he wanted it, because down there $9 an hour is big money.

"I'm a die and tool setter when I'm able to work. I could make $10.50 an hour if I was able to go back to a public job. But I'm not able to. I was paralyzed for a year and six months. It took me a year and a half to learn to walk over. That's when I lost my family.

"I was doing time in the South. They come in one morning at three o'clock in the prison camp, a work camp. They had a big wreck up on the highway, and they'd wanted to know if they had any volunteers to go out. They said they'd give them three days off a month — you get out quicker that way.

"So I volunteered. When we got out there, there was ice and snow on the ground and a big tree hanging over the road like this with water dripping off of it and freezing. Nine people got killed up there. And the foreman asked me if I'd go up and cut that tree off, with a chain saw. Well, I was raised in the country, and I can climb like a squirrel. So I went up, and when I cut the limb, it was frozen, and it busted off and jerked me off. I fell down with it.

I had a rope around me, around my middle, and when I came down I just burned all the hide off my hands holding that rope to keep from coming down so sudden. It jerked a disc loose in my back and pinched some nerves. It paralyzed me, and it took me a year and six months before it ever dropped loose. I was on crutches and then a walking stick for a year and a half, you might say two years, all together.

"Then I came here and tried to work. I was working out in Morton Grove doing nickel plate and chrome. I got down on my back again and couldn't go. Everybody told me to go to the welfare. I didn't know what welfare was. We don't have that down South. Well, they have a little bit, but you got to be 70 or 80 years old before you get any welfare down there. Young people can't get it. After I went to them, they gave me help, and I appreciate it, too, because I was down and out. I thought I'd just have to go into an old folks home. I was really worried because I had nobody but me here.

"I'm on Social Security Disability because I'm disabled to work. I can do a little bit, but I can't hold up long at a time. I wish I could. If I could hold up now, I could do die and tool work just as good as any man in the world.

"Like I am, I got this garage over here. If I get exhausted, I just crawl and sit down. But if you're on a public job, you just

can't do it. You've got to keep the work going. I draw $170 a month. It's hard to live on. Time you pay your rent, buy your groceries. you ain't got nothing left. I pay $125 a month rent, about as cheap as I can find. It's decent to live in. It's a two and a half room apartment. I make a little on the side. I don't eat that much, but it helps me to get by."□

Black Lung

91-Year-Old Widow Wins Black Lung Claim

(Chicago, Ill.) The coal miners of America and their families are among those most able to see the many cracks in the "great American dream" that the politicians like to brag about. They have been forced by the "profits first" attitude of the coal industry to work in conditions far more dangerous and unhealthy than the conditions in mines in some countries less wealthy than America. Since most of the areas they have worked in have been completely dominated by coal, the consequence has been that when there is a "slack run" for the coal industry or layoffs because of new machinery, they have been forced to move on, leave their homes and try to survive in industrial cities like Chicago.

The Chicago Area Black Lung Association has brought together Appalachian Whites, ethnic Poles and Italians from Southern Illinois and Blacks from Alabama. With this unity, victimized and previously ignored black lung victims and their widows have put their firsthand knowledge of how the system oppresses them to work and achieved some important successes; CABLA played a central role in the successful struggle for the comprehensive health center in Uptown and in the fight for new black lung benefits legislation.

91-year-old Anna Kalika and her son John (pictured above) became active in CABLA during their five year struggle to win benefits.

For Mrs. Anna Kalika, the 91-year-old widow of a coal miner and Polish immigrant from Staunton, Illinois, and her son John Kalika, the struggle of the Black Lung Associations has finally borne fruit. In 1973, Mrs. Kalika's son, John, inquired at a local social security office about a black lung claim. They told him that his mother shouldn't apply until she first could prove that her husband had worked in the mines and had been disabled by that work. Worse still, they did not tell him that in a few months a rule would go into effect which would automatically deny any widow's claim filed after 1973 if the husband had died more than three years before. (Mr. Kalika died in 1934.)

Shortly after, Ms. Kalika filed her claim. But because she and her son had not been informed they had a deadline to meet, they filed after the cut-off date. The Department of Labor (DOL) denied her claim on these grounds and refused to consider any other evidence.

John Kalika wrote letter after letter to the Department

of Labor. He described his memories of his father's gradually worsening lung condition in the early 1930's; he described the callousness of the company doctors; he described the many hardships his family had suffered because his mother had never even collected social security benefits since her husband died in 1934, before social security started; and finally, he described the failure of the Social Security Administration to inform him of the deadline for applying. He appealed to them to consider the claim.

"When you look through some of our files and read those carefully detailed and honest letters written by working people and then you read the form letter of denial that ignores everything that was said, you really understand what that federal bureaucracy has done to the law that the people fought for," commented a spokesperson for CABLA.

Mr. Kalika recalled, "After paying a lawyer $10 to have him spend two minutes repeating to me what the DOL had already said, I was ready to give up. Then I heard about the Black Lung Association." On behalf of his ailing mother, John Kalika became actively involved in the struggle for justice, attending meetings and writing letters in support of the new black lung bill.

When the bill was finally passed in 1977, it abolished the three year time limit for widows and also provided for almost automatic benefits for widows whose husbands worked 25 years in the mines before 1971. Through this measure the Black Lung Associations sought justice for widows of the coal miners who were doubly victimized by black lung and by the long time refusal of the medical profession to even admit it existed.

With the successful outcome of the fight for new legislation, the previously "hopeless case" became a "winner," and with help from CABLA, Ms. Kalika was awarded benefits. Mr. Kalika's comment was, "Of course we're very glad that she finally got it, but really they should have paid her long ago when she would have been able to enjoy it. Now her health has deteriorated a great deal, but at least money will now be available for whatever care she may need."

Spokespersons for CABLA pointed out that although they were pleased with the victory, the fact is that, overall, the DOL is moving much too slow in implementing the new law and seems to be searching for every possible loophole to deny many claims. The fight with the bureaucracy, they say, is far from over.□

Follow ~ Up

Wallace Davis – Won't Stop Fighting

(Chicago, Ill.) In mid-September, within weeks of the federal appellate court's decision to re-open his lawsuit against the Chicago police, Wallace Davis received word that as much as $500,000 in an out of court settlement could be made available to him if he decided not to go back into federal court against the police. As he had done twice before, Wallace made it clear that, although he has lost all three of his businesses and is now almost destitute financially, he would not accept money in place of a judgement finding the policeman who shot him and the police department that tried to cover it up guilty.

In the meantime, heavyweight champion Muhammed Ali has committed his support,

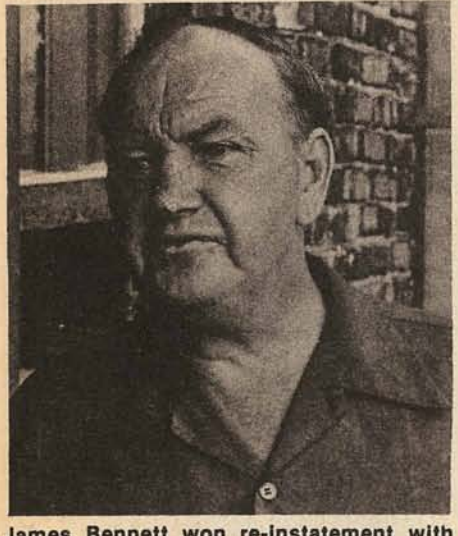
Wallace Davis believes the price of justice does not have a dollar sign.

promising to make several appearances on Wallace's behalf after he finishes a six week rest following the September 15 bout with Leon Spinks when he regained his title.

Finally, State's Attorney Bernard Carey still refuses to prosecute Officer Freels, who shot Wallace, in front of his own business, at point blank range in the back with a .357 magnum revolver.□

Mr. Bennett Wins Case

(Chicago, Ill.) Last month's KEEP STRONG covered a story about Mr. James Bennett and how he had been denied public aid. Since that time Mr. Bennett has been reinstated with AABD (Aid to the Aged, Blind and Disabled) with full back pay and food stamps as of September 20.

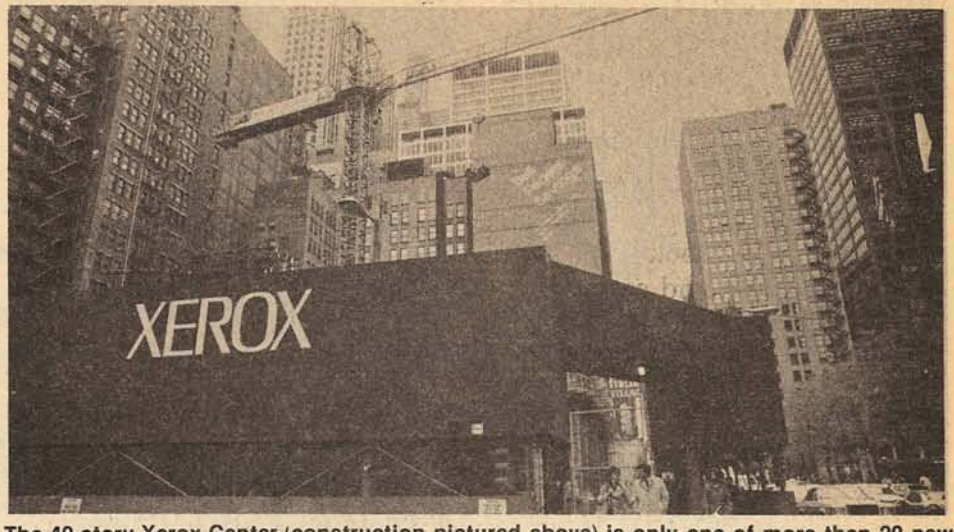


James Bennett won re-instatement with full back pay.

Mr. Bennett was a hard-working man, both as a coal miner and truck driver, until an accident on the job forced him to quit work. After his workmen's compensation ran out, he was faced with no other alternative but to apply for public aid. After being cut off he filed an appeal, and two months later he was put back on. But as Mr. Bennett said, "I shouldn't have had to go through all that in the first place to get what belonged to me."□

Community Development

Just Another Neighborhood?



The 40 story Xerox Center (construction pictured above) is only one of more than 20 new buildings that will be up within the next three years.

(Chicago, Ill.) Carrying Mayor Bilandic and his city council in their vest pockets, a group of giant developers have turned their eyes to Chicago's downtown Loop area. With Arthur Rubloff leading the pack, names like Romanek-Golub; Metropolitan Structures, Inc; McHugh-Levin Associates; Draper & Kramer and a half dozen others, are carving out big chunks of Chicago's central business district for major office buildings, high-rise condominiums and new hotels.

While spokesmen for the developers say the construction is designed to "revitalize" the downtown area, critics throughout the city state that it represents one of the final stages in the city's long-term plan to keep the Loop secure from the people of Chicago.

An investment of over one billion dollars is the price for the 20 buildings presently under construction or in the final planning stages. These 20

buildings alone will add another 12 million square feet in rental space to the Loop, not including Rubloff's plans, most of what he calls the "North Loop Renewal Project."

The construction is centered in three areas. In the south Loop, Dearborn Park, conceived and financed by some of the country's largest business interests, including Arthur Andersen, Sears Roebuck, International Harvester, Inland Steel, Continental Illinois Bank, is moving toward completion. In the central Loop the 40 story Xerox Center, the 57 floor First National Plaza, a 26 story building at 2 North LaSalle, as well as 33 West Monroe and 10 North Clark will add a combined 180 floors of office space. In the northeast section, the Hyatt-Illinois Center complex is also under major expansion. Hyatt Regency Hotel is adding another 37 floors, while plans are almost completed for 3 Illinois Center and the 47 story high-rise called Columbus Plaza.

The building rush is the first major construction since the late 1960's in the Loop, and the city has offered a number of incentives to developers and financiers, including the highly controversial State Street Mall and the major revamping of Wacker Drive.

Observing the effect of recent construction in the downtown area, many have remarked about the increasing cost of off and on street parking and the loss of retail businesses which were patronized primarily by Black people. Rubloff and company have referred to these types of businesses as "junk," dismissing them and the people who shop in them as not important to the life of the downtown business district.

With this new surge of building, the picture of what the Loop will look like and who it will serve is almost fully drawn — a series of expensive apartment houses, condominiums and hotels, housing people who are highly paid and work in finance, law, government, real estate and insurance, who can go to and from work through a network of enclosed sky walk tubes, never having to touch the ground.

The growing army of critics of this development believe that the heart of the plan is a deep desire to exclude Black and poor people from the Loop altogether within the next three to five years. Mayor Bilandic has tried to respond, calling the Loop "just another neighborhood — a neighborhood for all the people."□

Fighting City Hall

Community Pride Institute Off The Ground

(Chicago, Ill.) An appropriate development after a summer-long campaign for community pride in the Uptown community was the first meeting of the Helen Shiller Community Pride Institute held here on October 8.

Starting with a week-long campaign for community pride that culminated in an all day celebration on August 5, the slogan that "community pride is the sum of the self-respect of every person in the community" has become a guiding principle.

Community organizers involved in the campaign this summer pointed out that the initial thinking was that if people in the community did not begin to take responsibility for doing something themselves about the many problems that plague the community, it would not be possible to find solutions.

As stated by Helen Shiller at the initial meeting of the institute, "We have been saying all summer long that it is not enough to find someone to blame for the problems that we have. We have to take the responsibility ourselves to do something about them.

"We said in July that it is time to stop allowing the city to define our actions for us. At that time we used the example of keeping the community clean. We looked at the fact that the city does not take the responsibility to properly clean our streets and pick up our garbage, and we realized that

our response as a community has been to let that define what we do. So we figure, if the city doesn't care, why should we care, and out the garbage goes — in the street or in the alley.

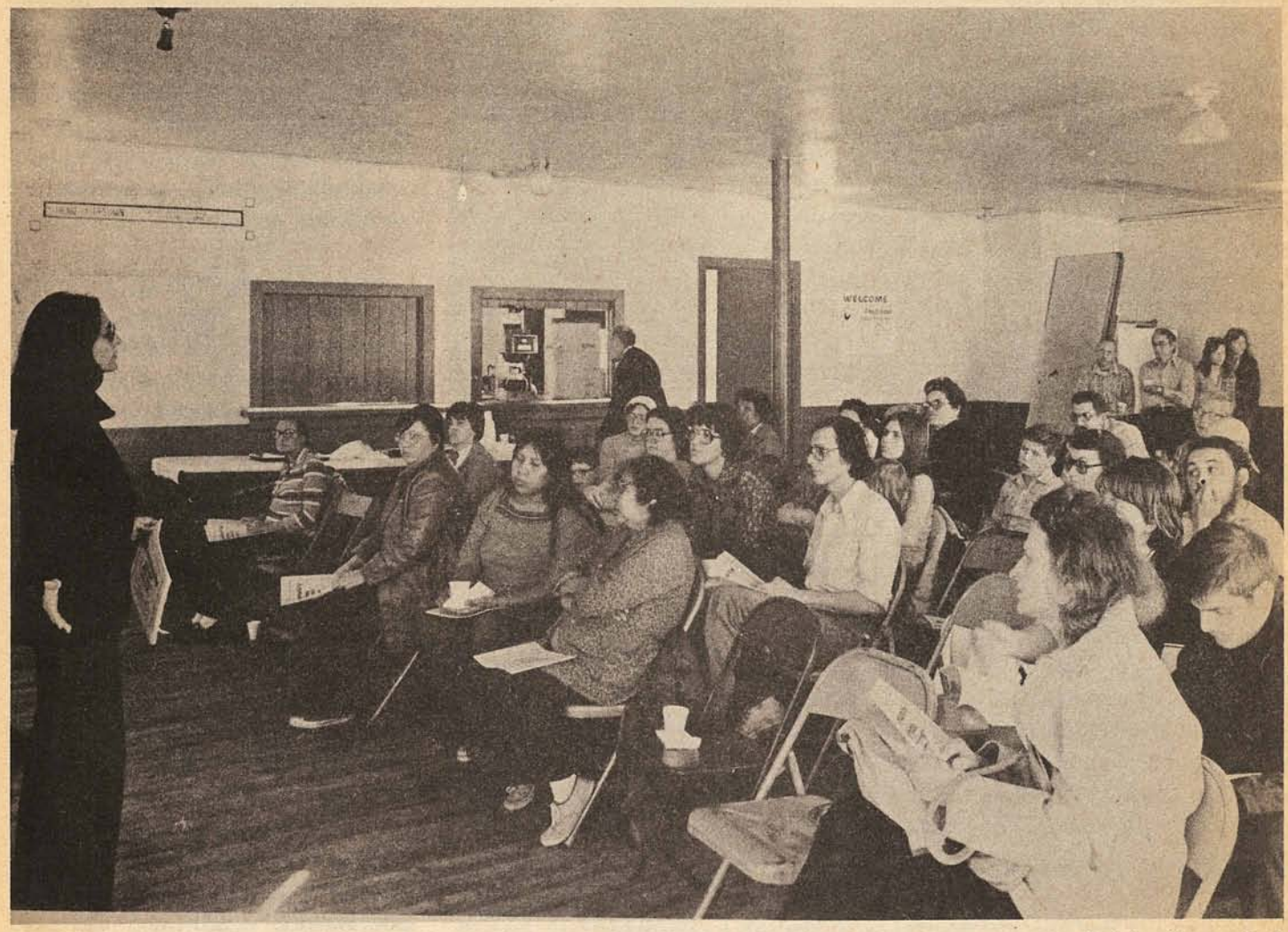
"It is time that we take that one step further. We also let ourselves be controlled by the precinct captain. We have not taught ourselves what he knows, and so when we have a problem we go to the precinct captain for help. We then owe him a favor. We lose our self-reliance, and we lose our self-respect.

"We have to do for ourselves, and we have to do by example and otherwise organize our friends and neighbors to do the same. We must learn to make our own determinations and learn not to be stopped and discouraged by the limitations city bureaucracy sets when it comes to things we need in our building or on our block.

"This is the purpose of the institute. We will learn how to get for ourselves the services that are available from the city. We will learn how to organize for the support that is necessary to win our demands, and we will learn who to call, how to call them and when to call them to get things done. We will do this because we must do this in order to be able to live in our community."

The over 50 people attending the first meeting of the institute seriously reviewed the facts about city services available in the first chapter of the Community Pride Handbook distributed. Discussion included who to call and what tactics individuals had already successfully used to get sewers rooted or stop signs up.

A plan for removal of snow from sidewalks throughout the heart of Uptown area this winter was adopted, as the attending community pride representatives closed the first meeting armed with information on the "hows" of getting basic city services for themselves and their community.□



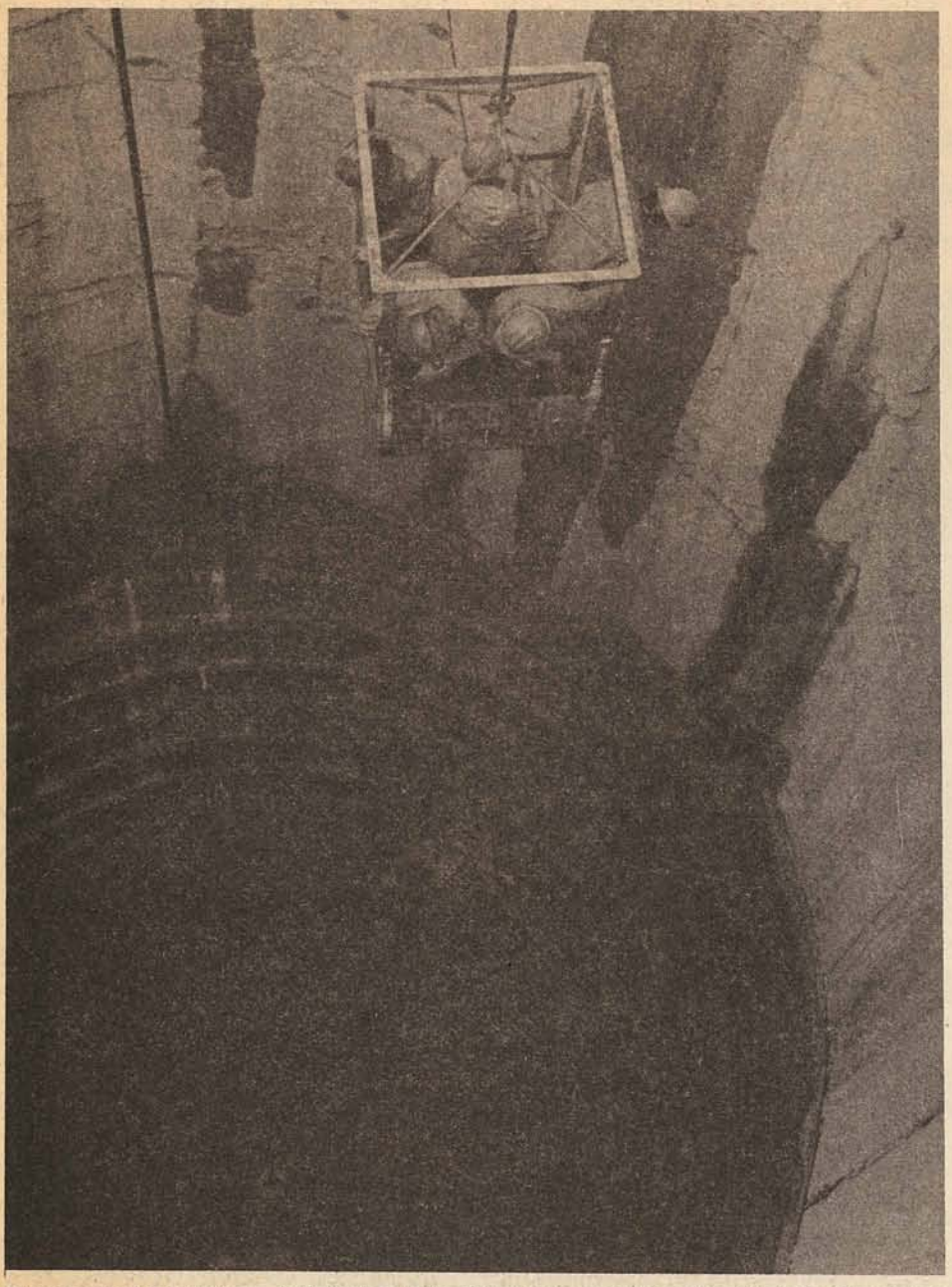
Helen Shiller addressing First Session of the Community Pride Institute: "We also let ourselves be controlled by the precinct captain. . . . We will learn how to get for ourselves the services that are available from the city."

Why Does The Deep Tunnel Project Go On?

(Chicago, Ill.) The TARP project, better known as the "Deep Tunnel," is the Metropolitan Sanitary District (MSD) of Chicago's answer to basement flooding and pollution of area waterways. It is a project whose estimated cost is $7.3 billion and which is being touted as a model for the nation.

The Deep Tunnel project is also a project with many critics and a few very influential supporters.

The project has been criticized for being a financial disaster, because, as the largest public works project ever attempted in this country, it will provide less than 1,000 new jobs.



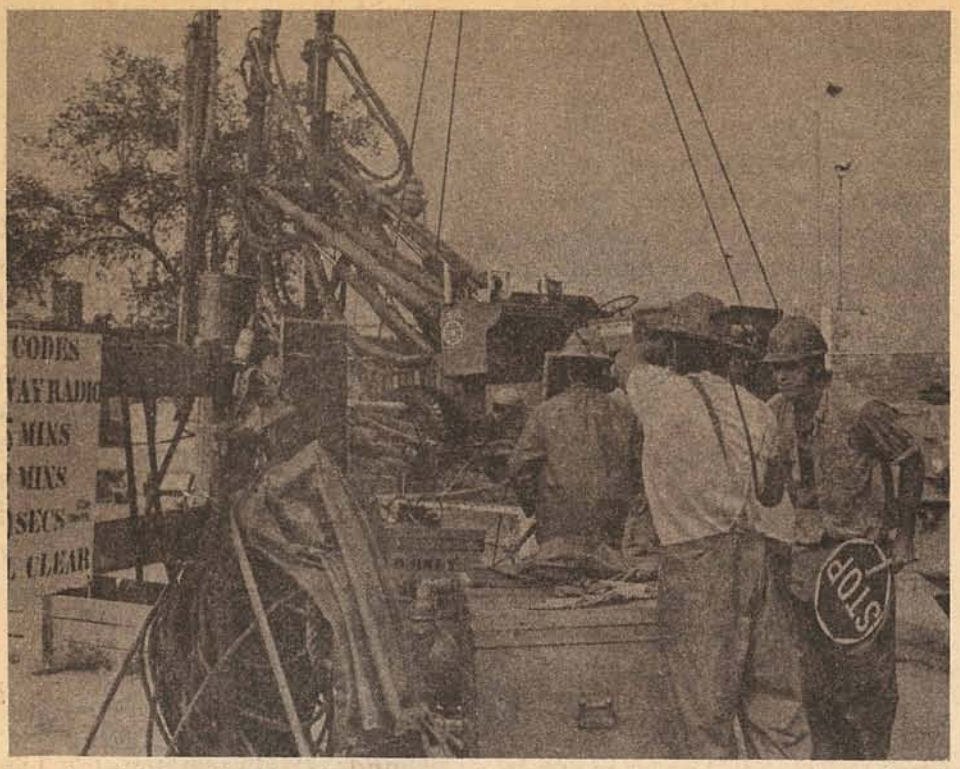
Questions of rising costs, bid rigging, sweetheart agreements and water purity threaten to shut down the "Deep Tunnel" before work is completed.

Disclosures made last winter by the Better Government Association (BGA) and the *Chicago Tribune* revealed "that the 'Deep Tunnel' project is unlikely to ever be completed because of escalating costs. And even if the project were to be entirely built, Chicago area rivers would not be made safe for human contact." Others question if the problem of basement flooding would really be controlled by the "Deep Tunnel."

Critics have also questioned the project's effect on underground drinking water. The tunnels are being dug through limestone, which is a porous material. Experts say that the project might be environmentally unsafe because of seepage through the tunnel walls of waste which would then contaminate the underground drinking water.

Finally, another of the project's critics, Sanitary District Commissioner Dolores Foster, has requested proof that the underground blasts, necessary for the construction of the tunnels, will not have a devastating shock effect on downtown high-rises.

Yet the project goes on. Why? Because there is big money involved. As part of their investigation, the BGA revealed that the primary beneficiaries of the Deep Tunnel are the politically connected contractors. At the time of the BGA report last winter the Sanitary District had already awarded $70 million in non-bid



Less than 1,000 workers have been employed through the largest public works project in the history of the country — cost $7.3 billion.

consulting contracts. Recipients of this money included former public officials Ben Sosewitz, former MSD General Superintendent and Earl Deutsch, former MSD Commissioner.

In addition, according to the BGA, since 1975 Deep Tunnel contractors have contributed more than $150,000 to political campaigns, including the campaign of MSD President Nicholas Melas.

Armed with the knowledge gained through a series of articles in the local media covering a bid rigging trial involving the construction business, investigators have not been surprised that most of the bids on the tunnel project have had unusual diversity. In other words, there is usually a low bid which is followed by the next closest bid being $10 to $20 million higher. Apparently a deal among the interested parties is hatched, and some way or other everyone will get a piece of the pie, according to sources familiar with the inner working of the construction magnates.

There is always an angle that the other guy (the one who does not make the low bid) can cash in on. In the case of the Deep Tunnel it appears that the angle may be found in the thousands of pounds of limestone being dug out of the ground.

When a group of minority contractors recently inquired into working on the Deep Tunnel project they hit many roadblocks and began investigating. Since transporting materials was the most feasible hook-up they could put together, they presented a proposal to the Sanitary District that would allow them to bid on a contract for the removal of the limestone being dug out of the earth and which is being replaced by the tunnels. When they did not get straight answers from the MSD, they looked for their own answers and have come up with some interesting facts.

The limestone being pulled out of the ground is equivalent to Grade A limestone which sells for $7.59 a cubic yard. The contract between the Sanitary District and the contractors building the Deep Tunnel states in one sentence that this material will be removed at no expense to the Sanitary District. There is no clause that allows the Sanitary District to collect on revenues received by the contractor as a result of this limestone being sold.

But that is not all. There are also a series of needs for limestone in the construction of the Deep Tunnel. The contractors are then turning around and charging the Sanitary District for the limestone they say they must purchase in order to complete the tunnel.

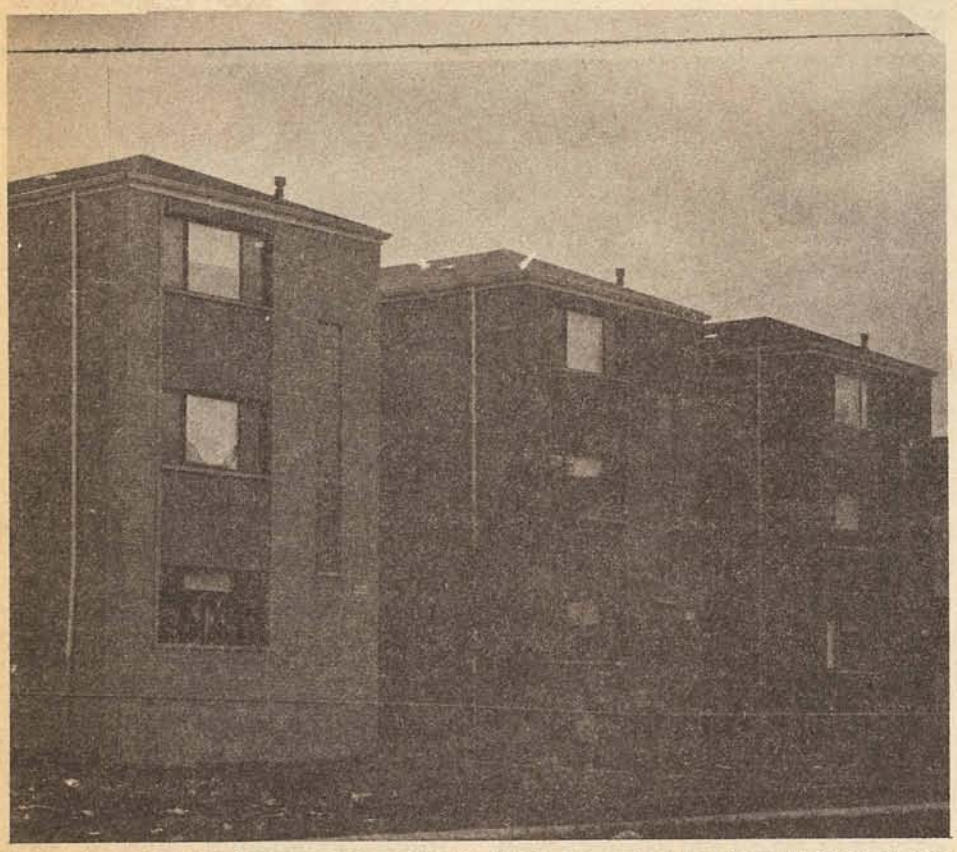
Therefore, according to investigators, the Sanitary District is paying once for the contractors to take the limestone out of the ground. And then they are paying twice for it to be put back into the ground.

As the investigation continues into the construction companies involved in the limestone fiasco, so does the Deep Tunnel project, which some say could turn out to be one of the most expensive frauds ever commited against the people.□

H.U.D. Sued Over Chicago Development Funds

(Chicago, Ill.) U.S. District Court Judge Francis Crowley was asked early this month to stop the federal government from providing Chicago city officials with $114 million in new community development (CD) funds. The request came two days after the Department of Housing and Urban Development announced its approval of the Chicago Year IV CD application. HUD denied, at the same time, a citizens complaint filed in August which charged the city with misusing the $150 million it has already received in community development funds.

The administrative complaint had been filed August 1 by city-wide community groups, including Business and Professional People in the Public Interest (BPI), the Heart of Uptown Block Club Coalition, Chicago Housing Tenants Organization (CHTO) and others. The complaint was an attempt to force the city to actually use new and old CD monies to provide housing for low and moderate-income people. Of the $150 million already sent to Chicago, only 10% has gone for housing. Most of the money went for public service projects (40%), urban renewal (24.5%), or administration (10.1%). In the meantime, housing in special "priority CD areas" (like Uptown) was torn down eight times faster than it was built.



These nine units of public housing on Racine Street are all that has been built to replace over 1,100 units torn down on two blocks of Racine alone.

In September, HUD ordered the city to answer to the charges contained in the complaint. The response included facts showing the city to be 9,200 units short of its commitment to building new low-income housing. The city also admitted that in three years, and with nearly $15 million, it was only able to rehabilitate 57 units in all of Chicago. No progress at all was reported in the key areas of family and large family units. Lawyers for the community groups called the city's response a "sickly list of failures."

Throughout the country, community advocates have zeroed in on routine misuse of community development funds by city governments. In Baltimore, Pittsburgh, New York and Cleveland, complaints have been filed on a wide range of abuses including CD funds being used to promote segregation in Ohio; to assist private developers in removing Black and poor people in Maryland and funds used to pay city bills for services already provided, instead of new housing.

BPI lawyers have now made the CD complaint part of the *Gatreaux* lawsuit, which proved that the city and federal government had for decades discriminated against Black and poor people in failing to provide housing in Chicago. As one Uptown attorney put it, "The system of discrimination here has made Chicago the most segregated city this side of Salisbury, Rhodesia." The motion to stop CD funds until city hall guarantees their proper use has been set for November 9 at the federal courthouse.□

THE SHERIFF RODE A DONKEY

Richard Elrod is running for sheriff again. He became the sheriff in 1970, eight years and many scandals ago.

Richard Elrod is the son of Arthur X. Elrod (Artie) of the 24th ward, and the 24th ward is where Jacob Arvey built his political machine 40 years ago. Arvey was the boss, the man who delivered over 29,000 votes for FDR in 1944, and when Colonel Jake moved on to the Democratic National Committee, Artie, his loyal ward secretary, moved up to committeeman.

The Elrod family was in the insurance business on the westside. From insurance they went into real estate and from real estate into politics. Artie used each piece of his operation to help build the other ones until insurance, politics and real estate in the 24th ward all had the same name — Elrod.

By the 1950's Black people had begun to make up a major part of the 24th ward. But as the political base turned Black, the machine stayed White, and the White precinct captains were torn. They didn't want to live with the Blacks, but they didn't want to give up their patronage jobs either.

So Artie and the captains formed the Donkey Club which allowed them to move north to whiter pastures, but retain

control of the political operation in the 24th ward. Most importantly, they were able to keep the patronage jobs that were designated for the 24th ward.

By 1959, the ward was mainly Black, and the Donkeys picked Ben Lewis, a loyal Black captain to run for Alderman. Before Lewis could run, Artie made him sign a pledge not to sell real estate or insurance in the ward. Shortly after Lewis was elected, Artie made him ward committeeman.

Two things should be kept in mind. The first is that no matter what position he held, everybody, including Lewis, knew that he was in there just for the show. There are still people around who remember Lewis calling his captains Mr. this and Mr. that and them calling him Ben or boy.

In 1959, when Artie Elrod (left) died, his long-time friend and confidante Erwin "Izzy" Horwitz assumed control of the operation.

The second is that Lewis was ambitious. Not long after he signed the pledge with Elrod, he decided that he was entitled to the ward's insurance business. In 1959, Arthur Elrod, at the time a county commissioner, died in his Lake Shore Drive apartment. His long time friend and confidante Erwin "Izzy" Horwitz assumed control of the operation. Lewis stayed out front, appearing to dance in step, but using his public and party offices to build his insurance business. The Elrod family sued him for violating his written pledge but withdrew the suit when they realized the agreement was illegal in the first place.

Things remained tense and grew tenser as rumblings began to be heard that Lewis was planning to run for Congress and had a bloc of 18,000 voters as his base.

On the morning of February 27, 1963, Lewis was found on his office floor, his hands handcuffed behind him. He had caught three bullets in the back of the head. Horwitz made George Collins (Lewis' bodyguard) alderman and committeeman, then congressman.

In the meantime, Richard Elrod had set out to prove how far you could go with a "good" family name. He had gotten a job in the corporation counsel's office, made a few friends, done a few favors, worked his precinct, and by 1967 he was ready to run for office. His first race was for alderman of the city's 50th ward (Rogers Park and West Rogers Park). The 50th ward was the new home for many of the captains that fled the westside when Black people started moving in.

Elrod lost. He ran for the state legislature shortly afterwards and was elected. While in the House he compiled an impressive record. Among other things he voted against anti-pollution legislation, for repressive legislation and against consolidation of a Cook County health district, the single factor responsible for the great improvement of health care at Cook County Hospital in the last seven years.

In 1970, Elrod, in his job as assistant corporation counsel, tried to tackle a demonstrator in the Loop, missed and dove head first into the side of a building, breaking his neck, and he was an instant hero, wounded in the line of duty and a perfect candidate to take the sheriff's job back to the democratic party. He campaigned on crutches, with the smiling mayor at his side, and although the party won in a landslide that year, Elrod won by only 10,000 votes. A partial recount showed that 2,000 of those were stolen.

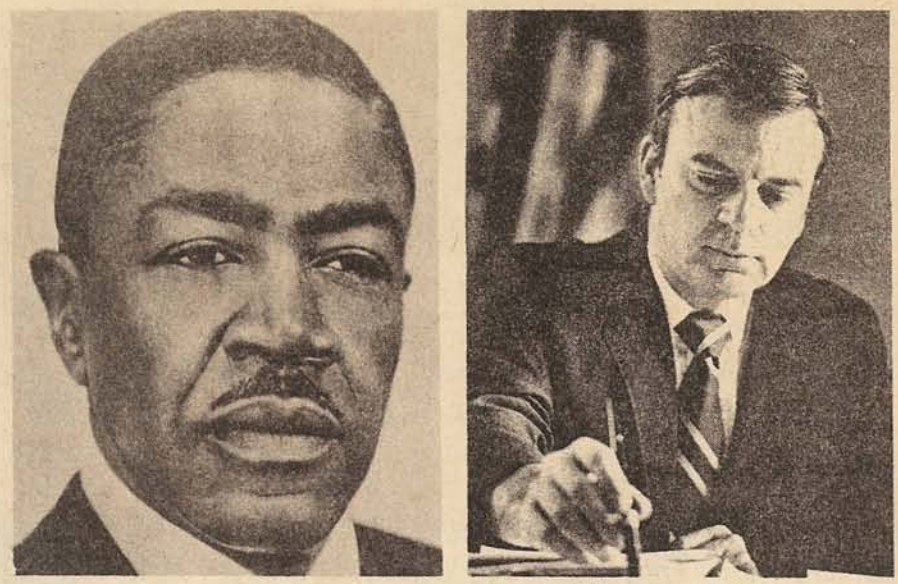
In 1972, the Black community was mobilized to oust State's

Attorney Butcher Ed Hanrahan who had planned and organized the assassination of Fred Hampton. Sheriff Elrod ran to the rescue. He called a joint press conference with Hanrahan and Police Superintendent James Conlisk. The purpose of the conference was to announce the arrest of ten Black men for a series of murders in Cook County. They said the men were part of a racial terrorist gang called De Mau Mau who were organized to kill Whites at random. They said the group might number 3,000 across the country, and the members had been trained in Vietnam to kill.

What they didn't say was that they had no real evidence to link any kind of conspiracy. Most of their prosecutions were weak, and in fact, the purpose of the press conference and racial scare campaign was to cause a white backlash that hopefully would keep Hanrahan in office and the all-important state's attorney's position in the hands of the democratic party.

In 1973 a group of reporters from the *Chicago Tribune* investigated conditions in Cermak Hospital at Cook County Jail. The sheriff's office is responsible for running the jail, and at that time Cermak was under Elrod's jurisdiction. The reporters found conditions at the hospital to be cruel, primitive and negligent. Payrolls were padded, unlicensed doctors were practicing medicine on inmates, records were faked, filth and rats were found all over, and cases and cases of patient abuse were documented. The Joint Commission on Hospital Accreditation withdrew its approval of Cermak, and county administrators were thrown into another crisis and scandal.

But this was just the beginning. Elrod as sheriff is also responsible for Cook County Jail. At least once every few months for the following four years, the jail was the subject of public scrutiny and scandal. Inmates reported being beaten regularly, guards were reported soliciting bribes, necessary hygiene items — mattresses, soap, etc. — were dispensed in return for favors or future favors.



24th ward alderman Ben Lewis (left), murdered in 1963. Ed "The Butcher" Hanrahan (right) — Elrod couldn't save him.

In 1976 an impartial citizens inspection team reported that the dining room had less than 300 pieces of silverware (total knives, forks and spoons) for over 2,000 jail inmates. In one 45 day period almost 30 prisoners escaped from the jail. Seventeen of them had just walked out together. It is no wonder that many people will cop to a felony, knowing they will spend more time in prison, rather than sit indefinitely in the County Jail unable to make bond.

In the last nine months alone there have been 18 major incidents of violence against prisoners, many resulting in injury and some in death. Elrod's opponent in the sheriff's race, Don Mulack, has recently exposed these incidents to the public, as well as the fact that Elrod has withheld this information from state authorities, contrary to the law.

But nowhere is Elrod's recent record of corruption clearer than in his use of the patronage system. He is still Artie Elrod's boy. As favoritism goes, the sheriff's office is a plum. Upon taking office in 1970 Elrod ordered mass firings in the sheriff's department, saying, "The man on the fifth floor (Mayor Daley) wanted it."

Today, sources indicate that at least one-half of the 2,600 employees in the sheriff's office keep their jobs because they work the precincts for elections and kick back 5% of their

"Elrod as sheriff is also responsible for Cook County Jail. At least once every few months for the following four years, the jail was the subject of public scrutiny and scandal."

salaries for party fundraisers. And the precincts in the city's far northside wards — 46th, 48th and 50th — are filled with captains who owe their jobs and livelihood to Dick Elrod.

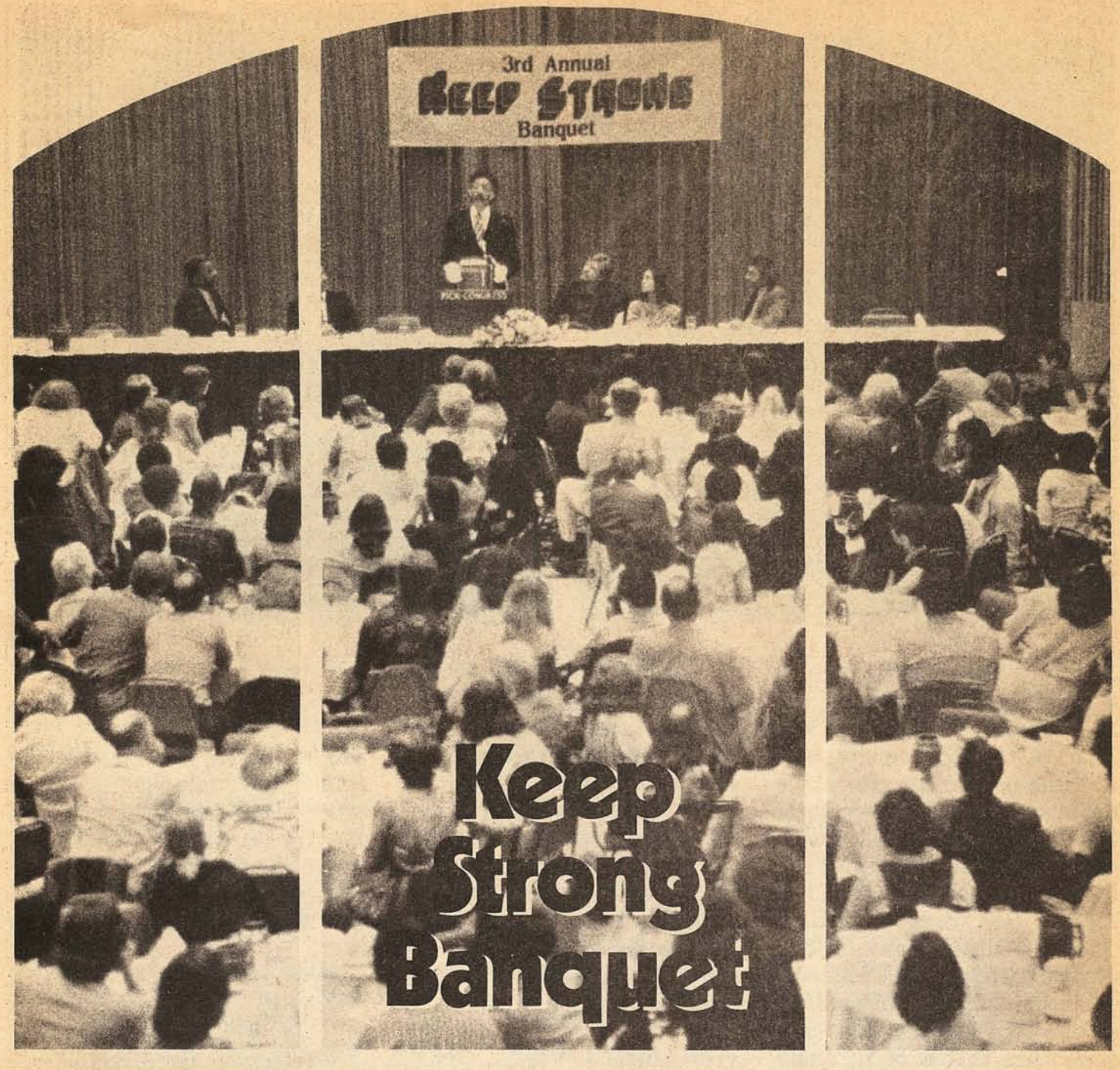
Elrod is distinguished as one of only two major officials in Cook County who refused to sign a federal court-ordered agreement that says that employees cannot be forced to do political work or make contributions to the Party. Mayor Daley signed it. George Dunne signed it. They only other person who refused to sign it was Ed Hanrahan when he was state's attorney.

But these abuses are light when compared to Elrod's use of the "gun patronage" system to repay friends for political favors. The sheriff has 200 special deputies who work as bailiffs in holiday court twice a month and get to carry guns and badges every day for the rest of the month. Slumlords, tavern owners, real estate operators, insurance men and golf buddies all can flash a badge and a gun just for making a sizable contribution to a campaign.

Richard Elrod is running for sheriff again. He's been good to his friends and his family and kept himself in office. His family and connections are spread across the city. His cousin Ralph Axelrod is the boss of the 46th ward. He, too, was in the sheriff's office for several years, and he owes his job, his party post and now his aldermanic seat to Dick Elrod and the Donkey Club that is still alive and well. When Axelrod ran for City Council in the special election last May, Elrod made sure Ralph had enough insurance. They emptied the jail on election day and sent deputies to work the precincts in the 46th ward for Ralph.

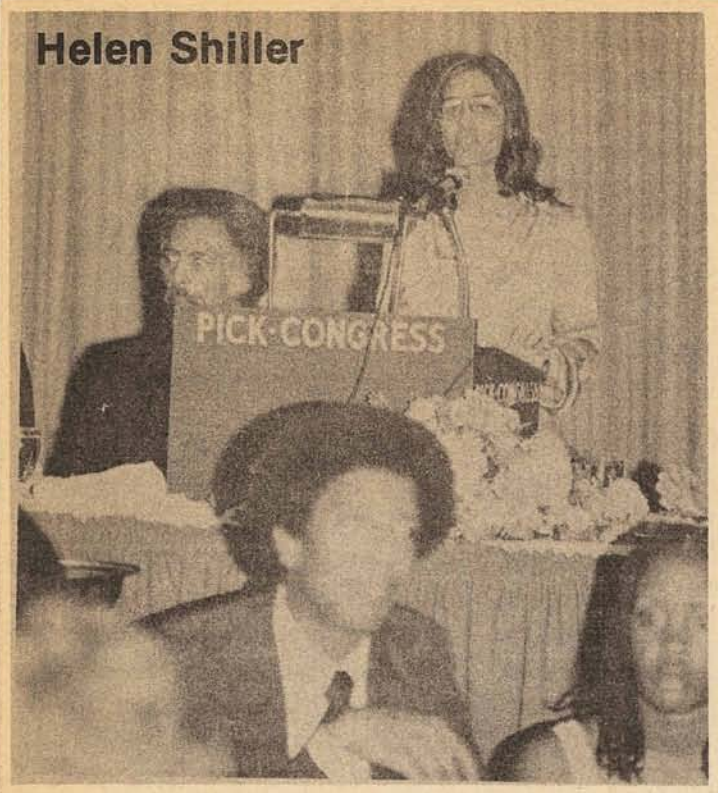
Whether or not Elrod wins, he knows that he'll always be comfortable. With family throughout the city, he'll always be able to find some office to sit in. Besides, he can always go back to selling real estate and insurance out of a law office.□

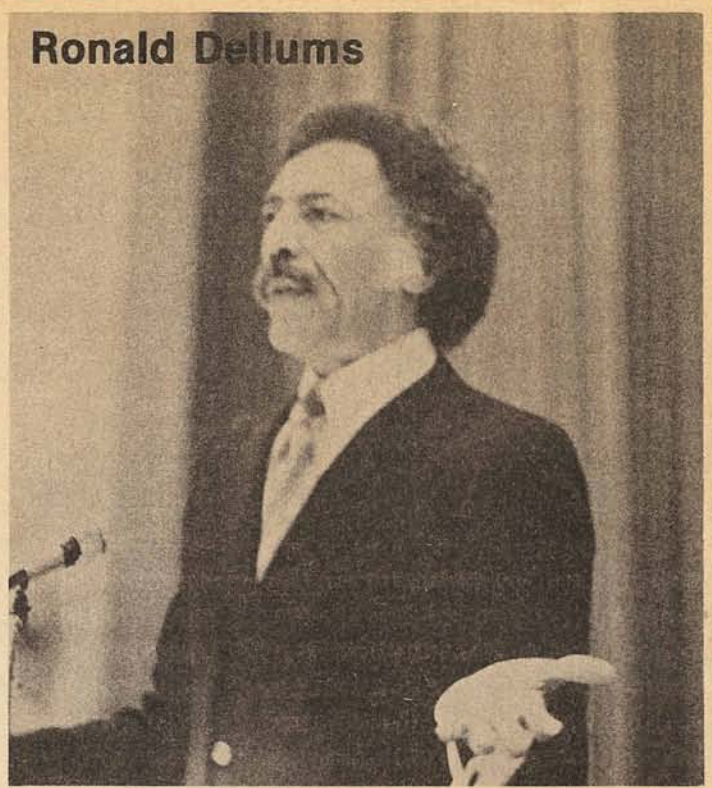
Read Part II next month: "Ralph Axelrod — The Donkey in the 46th Ward."



Defines The New Opposition

Helen Shiller Will Run In February!





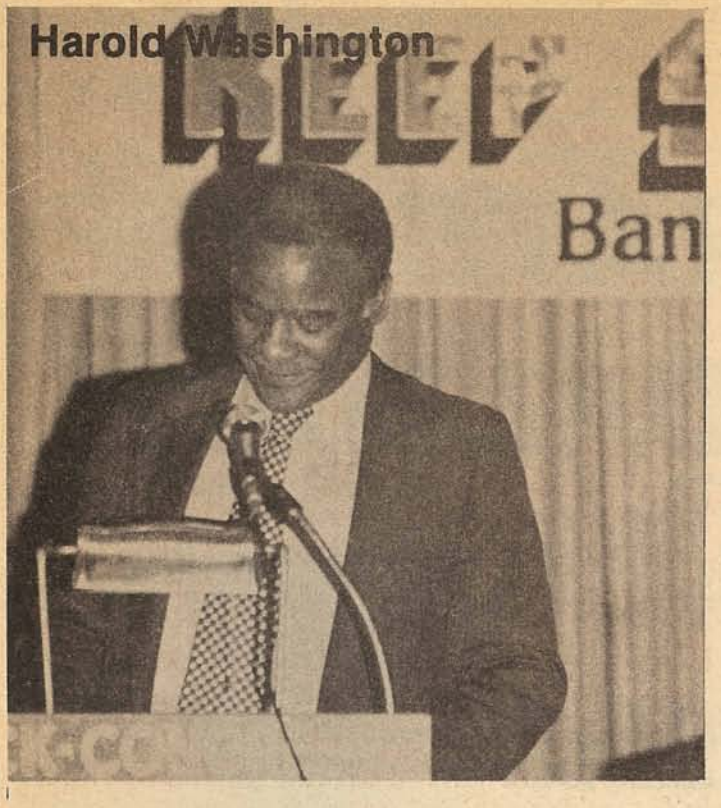
The Third Annual Keep Strong Banquet, held this year at the Pick-Congress Hotel, was both a celebration of the successes of the last year and a dedication to the struggles of the next. The well-attended dinner featured speeches by noted independent political leader Bill Singer, KEEP STRONG editor Helen Shiller, State Senator Harold Washington and highly respected California Congressman Ron Dellums. The theme of all these speakers was "the new opposition," but the message was "a challenge to make a commitment."

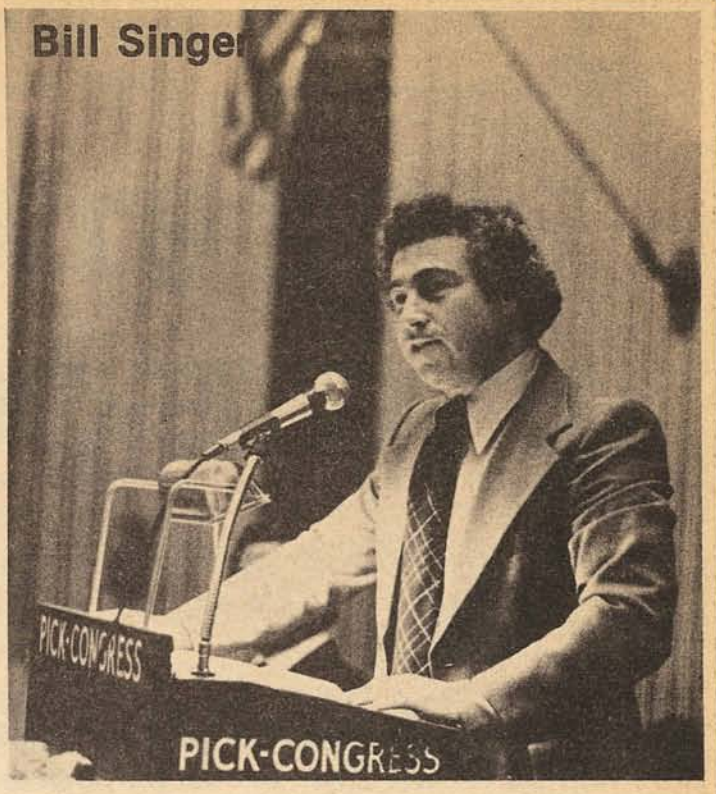
Former mayoral candidate Bill Singer began his talk explaining that "I came to Helen's campaign because I saw in that campaign something new and very important for Chicago politics." Singer reviewed the history of the independent challenge to the Chicago political machine since 1968. He pointed out that many independents had fallen away from the movement after the Vietnam War was over, because their commitment was not deeply behind changing the social realities in a city where jobs are disappearing, schools are poor, racial discrimination is high, communities are deliberately destroyed and an "evil political machine" rules the wards.

In Singer's words, "Helen, and the people in her campaign demonstrated a commitment that exceeded something transitory like the war issue. Their commitment exceeds any one issue. It exceeds a health clinic, it is beyond one family moving in and another family moving out. It's a genuine commitment to a community, to build it from the bottom up, to make it a strong community, to serve the needs of the community.....I think there's hope in that."

As Helen Shiller approached the podium she received a standing ovation from the over 400 participants at the dinner, a broad cross-section of the city's opposition leadership. As if in answer to Singer's speech, the very popular community activist explained the concept of the new opposition.

"Our task is to create new models at the grassroots level, from the deepest desires of the community, unleashing the deepest potential of the community, that solve the very serious problems of survival, inequality and injustice which plague the quality of life everywhere around us." As examples, Helen Shiller pointed to the community-controlled comprehensive health center newly opened in Uptown; to the new extension of Shimer College whose mission is to prove that no one is uneducable or unemployable by offering the





best educational opportunities to a community that has been written off; and to the gains of the Heart of Uptown Block Club Coalition in fighting the city's plan to destroy low-income neighborhoods.

The attractive and dynamic community leader pointed out that "these local models of successful people's struggle" must have within them a vision of change relevant to the entire country, as the new Uptown People's Health Center is a concrete, visible model of the National Health Service legislation which Congressman Dellums is fighting for in Washington.

Then the air became electric as the anticipating crowd rose to their feet cheering spontaneously when Helen Shiller began to announce that "for myself, as part of my participation in building the new opposition, I will be running for our city council seat in February."

Following an incisive introduction by State Senator Harold Washington, the already exhilarated crowd rose once again to their feet to greet Congressman Ron Dellums. The Congressman's eloquent speech, reprinted in full in this issue of KEEP STRONG, stressed the importance of coalition, of the realization of common human values to all those who are exploited and oppressed, and of commitment to take the reins of leadership and meet the challenge that well-financed and increasingly dangerous right-wing and reactionary elements are throwing down to the country.

The evening was indeed electric with penetrating analysis, a feeling of unity and an intensity of dedication based on the hard won accomplishments of the previous year. Emcee for the evening, Slim Coleman closed the banquet with a quote from Fred Hampton saying, "Don't go away from here clapping, leaving here not doing nothing," and asking, "Now, what are you going to do tomorrow?"

The challenge had never been more clear. The struggle for community justice and empowerment, represented most vividly in the upcoming Helen Shiller city council campaign, was now placed in a city-wide and nationally significant arena in which the progress of the movement for human freedom could be judged at a time when human hope in this country is having the door slammed in its face. The banquet set the stage for the very real drama to be fought out in Chicago in the next six months.□

Congressman Ron Dellums' Address To The 3rd Annual Keep Strong Banquet

THE STRATEGY OF THE COALITION

Ron Dellums, Democratic congressman from California, delivered the following address to the 3rd Annual Keep Strong Banquet on September 15, 1978.

"Slim, Helen, Bill, Harold, John and Brothers and Sisters: It's both an honor and a privilege for me to address you tonight at the 3rd Annual Keep Strong Banquet. As I looked out among you this evening and listened to the many thoughtful and courageous remarks of the people who preceded me, my speech changed directions at least ten times. But I do have a set of thoughts and ideas that I would like to share with you this evening.

"Some of you in this room will agree with everything that I have to say, some with nothing that I have to say, and some of you will fall somewhere between those two extremes, and I assume that's as it should be. For I do not come to you with the arrogance and the presumptuousness to assume that I have truth with a capital T, and if I had a recipe for the revolution, I would mimeograph it and pass it out. But I think that my responsibility as I address you is not to speak down to you or to assume that I have the ultimate answer, but simply to share with you my best thinking at any given moment, and that's what I seek to do this evening. If my remarks challenge you to think or to act or to be critical or analytical, then my coming will have served some useful purpose.

"Prior to going into my remarks this evening, several comments have been made that require that I at least respond to some random issues that have been raised, out of the context of my speech. First of all, Slim raised the issue of Puerto Rico, and I would like very much to share with you my thoughts and my ideas with respect to Puerto Rico this evening, because it is my contention that with all of the incredible level of electronic media and printed media, beamed at American people, I would daresay that 99% of the American people are probably totally ignorant about foreign policy, totally ignorant about

Congressman Ron Dellums (D-Calif.)

what this country does in the name of democracy and the United States.

"And so, for just a moment I would like to freeze one issue, the issue of the status of Puerto Rico, in hopes that I will stimulate you to challenge your own representatives to become involved in understanding this question, because the issue of Puerto Rico is going to loom as a very important issue.

"It is now a commonwealth of the United States. I testified the week before last, was very privileged to do so on behalf of myself and a delegation of American citizens testifying before the U.N. Committee on Decolonization, where the issue of the status of Puerto Rico was being considered. And I testified in hopes that the committee, and indeed the General Assembly of the United Nations, would agree with me that Puerto Rico is indeed a classic colony of the United States.

"How can you not be a colony when you are not capable of making the laws that affect your lives; when you are not capable of participating in all of the laws of the nation that purports to be your leader; when your young can go fight and die in insane, ludicrous causes across the water, and you cannot even vote for the president of your nation? It goes on and on and on. I believe that Puerto Rico is a classic colony of this country.

"A few weeks ago, the president of the United States issued a statement prepared for him by aides of the State Department, and in that statement, the president said, 'I subscribe to the notion of self-determination for the Puerto Rican people.' Most of you didn't even understand what that statement meant because he didn't put it in any context. But my point is this: how can a colonized people engage in the process of self-determination?

"I am a descendant of a slave. I am a Black man, and I feel that that qualifies me to say to you that a slave cannot participate in the process of self-determination. And I think that it is equally true that a colonized people cannot participate in the process of self-determination. Only a free people can participate in the process of self-determination.

"...a slave cannot participate in the process of self-determination ....Only a free people can participate in the process of self-determination."

"So if the president of the United States says to the Puerto Rican people, 'You may now make the decision as to whether you want to continue to be a commmonwealth, a state or independent, and you may have a referendum in 1980, and whatever you decide, we will support,' if you're not thinking, you would assume that that's a very noble democratic process. But consider this: they are already a colonized people, and a few days ago the United Nations Subcommittee on Decolonization agreed with my position and voted out a resolution defining Puerto Rico as a colony.

"But how can you then exercise freedom when you're already a colony; when your territory is occupied by the CIA, the FBI, tens of thousands of military troops, multinational corporations, an American government, forcing Puerto Rican people into a state of welfare dependency that is incredible; tearing, stripping the psychology of the Puerto Rican people; tearing apart their culture; stripping their heritage and denying them even their language, because they have to go to federal court and speak English in a Spanish-speaking nation. How arrogant!

"And my position is that Puerto Rican people at this particular moment cannot participate in self-determination. Therefore, the first step that the United States should engage in immediately is to recognize and identify the independence and the sovereignty and the inalienable rights of the Puerto Rican people.

"I would say to you what I said to the committee on

Decolonization at the U.N. when I finished my prepared remarks. I said, 'I would like to conclude with a few personal comments.' I said to the chairman and the members of the committee that there are many issues that confront us in this world that are incredibly important, incredibly complex and incredibly dangerous; issues that speak to the very question of survival of human life of all peoples on the face of this earth.

"If we as people on the face of this earth are going to address the incredible danger and complexity of the problems that lie before us, it will require a level of cooperation and sharing and understanding and camaraderie unheralded in the history of humankind. And it is my fervent belief that only free people can participate in such a process. And the Puerto Rican people have a right to be involved in helping to chart the destiny and the direction of the world. Therefore, the Puerto Rican people have a right to their freedom, and we must recognize it.

"And so I share that with you because it is my hope that you will speak with your representatives and your senators, because once the U.N. passes the resolution, the right-wing members of Congress and the right-wing members of the Senate will emerge all over the place, saying the United Nations passed a communist, Cuba-backed resolution to embarrass the United States. We embarrassed ourselves by colonizing the Puerto Rican people.

"I want you to tell your representatives that you're not going to buy self-determination on the part of colonized people. So tell them that you want to pass the resolution that I introduced, the first resolution, calling for the United States to recognize the independence of Puerto Rico and the right for them to make self-determination in 40 years since Vito Mark Antonio. I'm very proud to walk in his footsteps because I, too, am a socialist.

"The second quick bit of information, and I hope you would also communicate with your representatives on this question — I went to Puerto Rico not only to discuss the issue of the status of Puerto Rico with Puerto Rican peoples, but I also went to the Island of Vieques. Most of you never heard of the island of Vieques. Vieques is an island municipality of Puerto Rico, right off the coast of Puerto Rico.

"Why should it be in 1978 that the power of the United States military can squeeze people and stifle their lives?"

"It's an island of approximately 33,000 acres. The Puerto Rican people only control 6,000 of them. The United States Navy and the United States Marine Corps control three-fourths of an island of 33,000 acres. As you fly into the island, the coral reefs have been bombed so often with the United States engaging in all of its practice of these mad war games, that they've made the coral reef look like Swiss cheese. People have died as a result of walking on live ammunition. Fishermen who've been fishing as Puerto Rican people from time immemorial are now afraid to drop anchor in certain parts of the water around that island because thousands of pounds of live ammunition lie at the bottom of the ocean.

"For two years the Puerto Rican people on the island of Vieques were in need of fresh water, and every now and then the military would ride down out of the hills and give them a little water. For all that two years, the United States Navy had constructed a pipeline across the entire island of Vieques, and every day they drank fresh water.

"Not only have they treated Puerto Rico as a colony, but Vieques as a plantation. So I want you to talk with your representatives and members of the Armed Services Committee about the role of the United States' military in the lives of the Island's people, because they, too, have a right to be free. And why should it be in 1978 that the power of the United States' military can squeeze people and stifle their lives, stifle their ability to grow

and develop? I find it absolutely incredible. And it would never be dealt with unless the people stand up and speak out about it. And I hope that you do.

"Another random thought before I get into the total context of my statement. My friend mentioned the Bakke case. I want to say something quickly to you. First of all, with respect to the Supreme Court decision, I want to give you my position. Nothing short of a unanimous decision by all nine Supreme Court justices, reaffirming this country's commitment to freedom, justice and equity, can be defined as a victory. Anything short of that was a political statement not calculated to perpetuate the best that is in us, but to play games with that which is the worst in us. I see affirmative action, in its highest form, as tokenism. What we have to do is rise beyond the horizon of tokenism to begin to talk about education as a right.

"The issue today is this: if in Chicago a newspaper had a big ad saying, 'Ten jobs paying $15,000 a year,' 10,000 people would show up for the jobs. Now if you apply affirmative action, of the ten people that get through, half of them must be women, half men, a few Blacks, a few Chicanos, one Puerto Rican, one Native American, etc. Right? And then that is a great liberal gesture on the part of the country. But remember, when those ten people got in, and from a bird's-eye view they represented America as per affirmative action, 9,900 other people got the door slammed in their face. The politics of the civil rights movement was concerned about the ten that got through. The politics of the 1980's has to be about the 9,900 that didn't get through.

"And I also understand this: I don't believe that we can make a strict racialist analysis of the Bakke situation. If you understand Bakke within the context of America's present economics, you will quickly arrive, given the madness of Proposition 13, at the understanding that opportunities are *decreasing* in this country, and competition is *increasing* in this country. And if you don't do anything about expanding the opportunity, the competition will kill us. What is important is that Black people and White people not come clashing together around the Bakke situation, because the issue is not whether 18 Blacks can go to school. The issue is whether anyone in this country who wants to go to school and has the ability can do it.

"What we have to do it rise beyond the horizon of tokenism to begin to talk about education as a right."

"I'm going to get into that a little further later. Another random comment — fear. Fear is pervasive in our society. We all know that. Fear permeates our thinking almost every day. Will I get my suit wet if it rains? Will I get hit if I cross the street? Will somebody bust me with this joint in my pocket? Will somebody steal my social security check? Will I get mugged? Fear permeates our entire society. Will I get cancer? Will I get old? Fear also permeates the political system.

"Now consider this for a moment. All of us are extremely critical of our non-courageous, expedient politicians that dominate the American political scene. Right? But who in the hell sent them there? How can you have courageous people represent you when in the very process by which we select people we rip the guts out of those who are courageous? Very few people who are courageous and strong and who have clear, courageous ideas about life ever get to represent people. We tear down people who have strength. We rip their guts and their spirit out, and we send people with no spirit and no guts and no heart to Washington, D.C., and then we wonder why they cannot lead.

"We elect people who either internalized the fear, who reflect the fear or who are shrewd enough to manipulate the fear. Will the niggers take over my community? Will the gays teach my children? They play all these games by interjecting

fear into our lives. And so we have politicians catapulted to high places who are willing to tap dance as a result of the fear. The issues that confront us are fearful issues. But I would simply like to say to you that it is not frightened people who will lead us — only the courageous and the strong.

"I don't agree with those who believe that the majority of this country has moved to the Right. The swing is there, yes, but I cannot comprehend intellectually how a nation could go through 20 years of the civil rights movement, the struggle for third world liberation, Black liberation, women's liberation, gay liberation, anti-war, the environment, consumer issues, and still be right-wing. There's no way. But there is a swing to the Right in this country, because that's the only group that is articulating. It is the best organized; it is the best financed; and they are dominating the arena; they are defining the issues; they are defining the parameters of the question; and they are manipulating the elections; and they are maneuvering people into electing right-wing kooks who are not about the business of taking us out of the bondage of the present moment into some kind of reality for tomorrow that allows us to live in some dignity and some freedom and justice.

"It's not the majority of America. You cannot believe that and fight strong. You've got to believe that the majority of people in this country, if they understand what is going on, are capable of embracing a much broader coalition that is progressive and understanding. You've got to believe that. The right wing has thrown down the gauntlet, and we must now pick it up. The Right is dominating the debate in this country, and we must now pick it up. The Left must emerge. The progressives must emerge. Those of you in this room who are humanitarian and humanistic must emerge.

"A society that is not capable of embracing humanistic values, is a society not worth saving. Therefore, it is those of us who are prepared to embrace those values who are the people that have the potential to save this country and save the world. I feel a sense of urgency about this.

"A society that is not capable of embracing humanistic values is a society not worth saving."

"And now I would like to put all my comments into some context. There are probably none of you in this room who could pass a geography test today about the world. Why? For very obvious reasons; it you go back 30 or 40 years ago there were only 40 nations in the world. Today there are over 160 nations in the world. We have quadrupled in the number of countries — nations emerging, independence movements emerging, people struggling for their dignity and their freedom, people desirous of being full participants in charting the destiny of the world.

"Our world is changing, and it is changing rapidly. Our world is shrinking and becoming interdependent and interrelated. Our world is changing in such a manner and at such a speed that it leads one to conclude that today's nationalism is rapidly becoming yesterday's tribalism.

"We brought tribes together and formed nations because there was a commonality of concern. Well, in 1978 the issues of war and peace transcend national borders — it's a world problem. The issue of the proliferation of nuclear weapons transcends national borders — it's a world problem. The danger and the destruction and devastation to our environment and the delicate balance of the ecological system is not a national problem — it's a world issue.

"You can pass clean air bills all you want to clean the ocean on your shore. But if there's only one ocean, and you call it different things as it pops up in different places, and twenty other nations pollute it, and a lot of corporations bend the laws so that they can pollute it

and make it sound as if we passed a clean air act, then you have done nothing about it. It's not a national problem — it's an international issue.

"The issue of the distribution of food — it's an international problem. The issue of raw materials and energy is an international problem. The issues of hunger and malnutrition — it's an international problem. Climatic conditions that are now beginning to be unpredictable because we've so thoroughly screwed up the heating and cooling system of the earth with all our corporate profit-making rapes and plundering of the environment, is now a world issue.

"What makes us think that we can have a plastic ball over the United States and famine would not hit this country? What makes us think that we stand out so glamorously, and the lord smiles down upon us only, that we cannot feel the pain and the agony that other nations have felt as the result of droughts. The world is changing, and we have to change with it. And the question is what is our responsibility in that change, and in which direction shall we go?

"You look at our country. We're stuck with high unemployment, incredible inflation. We have a health system that is fraught with excessive costs, maldistribution of health workers to health consumers, unreliable care, no opportunity for the people to have any impact on the policies of the delivery system of health that affects their lives every day. We have a health system that has gone from $140 billion annually a couple of years ago to $160 billion last year to $200 billion this year. It's a problem.

"We have tens of thousands of people in this country who cannot attend school because it's become too difficult for people financially. We have people who still live in homes that are not aesthetic and functional, that do not provide dignity. We still have people who work in the working place that is dangerous. I'm pleased that the coal miners stood up and understood that they were being treated like niggers, too, in this country, and I'm glad they said they wouldn't go into their damn mines until we changed the nature of the conditions.

"Who are the enemies of unemployed Whites — poor Blacks, unemployed Blacks? No, a system that is willing to perpetuate and tolerate unemployment."

"So our country is changing, and the world is changing. What is our responsibility? I believe our responsibility is to lead. In which direction shall our leadership go? I think the answer to that question or at least the clue to answering that question lies in answering the following question: who are the enemies of poor Black people in this country? It's not poor Whites, but a system that perpetuates poverty. Who are the enemies of unemployed Whites — poor Blacks, unemployed Blacks? No, a system that is willing to perpetuate and tolerate unemployment. Is Allan Bakke the enemy of Black America? A system that would not allow anyone who wants to go to school and has the innate ability to do it and the interest to, is the enemy. So when answering questions as to who is the enemy, you realize that the issue is not the same.

"In 1960 the civil rights movement did not require we develop an ideological perspective, because the civil rights movement was based upon the assumption that the system worked for everybody in it. And since Black people were out of it as a result of racism, Jim Crow, prejudice and discrimination, if we fought the barriers, the doors would open. We would walk in, and this would be the great result of all the struggling. So you didn't have to be ideological. All you had to do was to be mad enough and Black enough to want to change it, to want to get in. So then we started marching in and singing in and laying in and praying in and burning in and all of that.

"And when all the smoke cleared and the fanfare cleared, we found ourselves in 1978 with

the talented 10% of our community capable of occupying the turf of the battles that we won. But the masses of people's condition didn't change. If it did, it got worse. So the civil rights movement didn't require ideological perspective, because the thrust was not to change the system. It was simply to get in it. But, in 1978, what I think we have to begin to become increasingly aware of is that, despite all the public relations gimmickry and the television commercials and *Saturday Night Fever*, this country's in trouble, and many people are suffering tremendously.

"Look at the procession of niggers across America's stage. And I use that term because several years ago I redefined nigger. I define a nigger as anyone in our society whose role is defined and limited by others, whose opportunity is defined and limited by others and whose justice is meted out on the basis of expedience and not truth and mercy. And so when I applied my definition to America, I realized quickly that there were black niggers, brown niggers, red niggers, yellow niggers, white niggers, women niggers, student niggers, old niggers, poor niggers and working class niggers.

"And then when I saw the coal miners stand up, I said 'further niggerizing of America.' And then when the farmers of America came to Washington and let all those hogs and chickens go, several of them walked up to me in the hall of the Rayburn Building. I mean they identified themselves, said, 'Are you Congressman Dellums?' I said yes. They said, 'We're rednecks from Mississippi.' And I said, 'Yes, sir.' I was outnumbered so I was being functional. And they sat down and proceeded to talk with me about their plight as the small farmer. And if they had made that same statement on Sproul Hall steps of the University of California in 1960, those farmers would have been defined as left-wing radical extremists, because those farmers were challenging the lust and the greed of agribusiness and huge corporations descending upon their lives. These White farmers were saying to me, 'Look, we bought the dream. They said get a piece of land, go to the bank, borrow some bucks, get some equipment, plant some food and sell it, and live happily ever after.' They said, 'Congressman Dellums, I'm in $400,000 worth of debts and don't know how to get out.' It went right around the room. They said, 'We want you to come to Mississippi. We'll get 12,000 red-neck farmers to listen to you because we want White America to understand that it ain't about race anymore, it's about economics and corporate power in America.'

"They said, 'We want you to come to Mississippi. We'll get 12,000 redneck farmers to listen to you because we want White America to understand that it ain't about race anymore, it's about economics and corporate power in America.'"

"So we must lead. It seems to me that the direction of that leadership must go toward the changing of institutions, the changing of the system. In order to do that, we have to have a set of politics. And I think if you're going to have some politics, you have to have four fundamental ingredients: a value system, a perceptual frame of reference, a set of goals and objectives and, finally, a strategy by which you seek to achieve those goals.

"I mentioned values when I said that the basis of our politics must be rooted in humanistic values, values that say things like life is the most precious substance on the face of the earth — not money, not property, not prestige, not status — life; human values that say every human being — Black, Brown, Yellow and White — should have the right to flower and function and grow and realize their fullest human potential in freedom and dignity and justice; the kind of values that say each of us in our own way must assume the responsibility for the world we seek. Stated another way, each of us must be responsible for the knowledge that we gain.

"If through your eyes you see injustice and oppression and pain and sorrow and stench and death and destruction, whether

you're running for alderman in Chicago, Congress, whether you don't work, whether you drive a cab, wherever you see the injustice, you must challenge it. If it's those kind of values, if you start with your politics, based upon those kind of humanistic values, that kind of sensitive understanding of our fellow human beings and a oneness with everything around us, then you say, what are the issues? You apply your perceptual frame of reference, given the backdrop of those values, and you ask, 'What endangers life? What inhibits growth? What destroys and harms people and destroys their hopes and their dreams and their aspirations?'

"Well, I call it the niggerizing process — any process that oppresses people, any process that denies them the ability to grow and function and flourish. Racism is only one form of how we niggerize people. Sexism is another form, because as long as we continue to perceive women as in some way a different kind of second-class male, or bottle washers, broom pushers, typists and cooks, we have niggerized over half of this nation.

"We niggerize people at the level of age — 65 years, you're defined as senile or quasi-senile. You're forced to live on one fraction of what you lived on the day before your birthday. We niggerize working class people. We tell America that the reason why we have inflation is because working class people are negotiating for higher wages. Well, they got to have them. The cost of living is going out of sight. People can't pay their rent, they can't buy their food, they can't clothe themselves, they can't send their children to school.

"It's not higher wages that are causing inflation but the fact that we're putting a larger and larger and larger amount of money in a smaller and smaller area of our economy. It's killing this economy, and that is an ever increasing military budget going to fewer and fewer military, industrial corporations. So we niggerize many people — niggerize the Puerto Rican people.

"You start with a humanistic set of values, and you apply them to life around you. It seems to me that you then can see clearly dictated before you a direction in which to go. I think the direction which we must go in now is radically different from the movement that we came out of over the past 20 years. The movement 20 years ago was a movement to get in the system. The movement 20 years ago was an effort to break down the barriers.

"But as I said to you, competition is increasing, and opportunities are decreasing. That only foments conflict. It's the Black people's fault, it's the White people's fault, it's the radical people's fault, it's these people's fault. So we keep people who ought to be coming together from coming together because they're all competing over the lion's share of the crumbs. And so some kind of way we have to break out of that bondage. And I think that we ought to embrace this notion that political democracy cannot exist without economic democracy.

"And so maybe, my friend, the new opposition must become a new opposition capable of mobilizing a new movement demanding new rights — the right to a job, the right to an education, the right to decent health, the right to shelter, the right to clothing, the right to live in a decent and livable community. Let these things become the rights, and don't get frightened because it sounds radical.

"Government is supposed to be the collective expression of the people's will. But the tragedy is that government today is not the collective expression of the masses of people's will. It is the expression of those who have the ability to impact it, to manipulate it and direct it. And that is not the masses of people.

"What is wrong in 1978 is we're saying that we are a powerful enough and wealthy enough nation to guarantee that everyone has the opportunity to work, go to school, to have health care, to live in a livable community. The point is that the system is not working for an incredible number of people. It's not working for the small farmer, it has not been working for the coal miner, it has not been working for Black people and third world people. Look at all the recent data on the advances of women in our society. It's not working for women. It's not working for senior citizens.

"So as larger and larger numbers of people come to the realization that it's not working for them, then we can come together to decide how we want to change that system. Or, stated another way, how we want to define the role of government in our lives. Many people take the House (of Representatives) and say, 'People are tired of government in their lives.' Well, one day I'm going to get up behind one of these guys and say, 'You're damn right they're tired of *this* kind of government in their lives.'

"Once we lay out a program of economic democracy, we can greater insure political democracy. Now, how can we do that? Black people cannot do it alone, Chicanos cannot do it alone, the Left at this moment alone, the left at this moment cannot do it alone. And the reason why I say that is because it's my belief that as long as one walks amongst us who is a slave, then we are all to that extent slaves. If one walks among us who is oppressed, then we are all to that extent oppressed.

"And so it's a gross misnomer to assume that one group can be free in a vacuum, because the wonderful and weird and beautiful thing about freedom is once you start down that road toward freedom, you cannot stop until everybody is free. Because it is only then, when equal people with equal dignity and equal rights and equal stakes can ever achieve the kind of society and world that is worthy of us and our children and our children's children.

"You and I as living organisms on the face of the earth have a capacity that perhaps no other living organism has, and that is the ability to destroy it all. Therefore our responsibility has to be to guarantee to our children that there is a tomorrow for them to inherit and for them to take. And that means today that we must challenge every evil, every danger, every destructive act, that does not guarantee that our children have a tomorrow in which to grow and develop and take the world.

"And so perhaps it is this generation more than any other generation . . . that now must stop and pause and understand what our responsibility is, not only to ourselves but to our future."

"The world's evolving, and this is our moment on this planet, and at this moment we've achieved a level of incredible ability to destroy beyond any other in history. And so perhaps it is this generation more than any other generation, with the enormous technological ability to destroy and the greed that continues to plunder and rape the earth, that now must stop and pause and understand what our responsibility is, not only to ourselves, but to our future.

"One young page that works for me, a few weeks ago, when I first met him, said, 'What do you think makes you different from any of your colleagues?' And I thought that was a very heavy question for a 14-year-old kid to ask, so I thought about it for a long time, and I said, 'Maybe the difference is that many of my colleagues are only concerned about a world they know, and I'm concerned about a world I'll never see.'

"And if your commitment is to that future, then what you have to do today in the present begins to make sense, and people who live with us at the moment benefit from that sense-making. So if you start with values and move to a perceptual frame of reference, to a set of objectives and goals that you seek to achieve, the final question is, what is the strategy by which you seek to achieve them?

"I've already alluded to it. It is the strategy of the coalition, the coalition of the niggers, the victims, the oppressed, whatever word you want to use — it's all the same. The coalition that brings together the Blacks and third world people, the coalition that brings together the women, the coalition that brings together the workers, the coalition that brings together the poor across all those lines, the coalition of all the people who the system is not

working for.

"The coalition is larger than any group in this country, because that coalition *is* this country, that coalition is the majority of this country, even the group that we euphemistically refer to as the silent majority, hard hat America, blue collar America. One day they'll awaken to the reality that they're niggers, too, and they'll join this coalition, and we'll change America, and we'll change the world.

"But it is us who must start it, without fear, for as I said earlier, it is not frightened people who will lead, but it is people with some heart and some courage and some sensitivity and some integrity. And so we must now emerge. Proposition 13 threw down the gauntlet. Let's not spend time worrying about what the motives were. We understand the motives. But move aside the motives, and objectively look at what Proposition 13 was saying. Very interesting. We're tired of being heavily taxed, we don't like the priorities, and we don't like our money being spent on ineffective, inefficient programs. Right?

"But the interesting thing is that's what the Left has been saying for years. That's why we've been challenging the unfairness of our tax system. We challenged the priorities of this system because we're tired of B-1 bombers and Trident submarines. We want some human programs and some human direction and some human policies. We're also tired of weak, ineffective, underfunded, knee-jerk, liberal programs that were designed to deal with symptoms and not basic causes.

"So if it is the Left that raised these questions earlier, then my statement to you is why are we not advocating our responsibility to mount the podium, enter the debate and say to the Right, yes, you have thrown down the gauntlet, you have thrown down the issues. We agree, now let's fight over what are the priorities, let's fight over what shall be the weak, ineffective programs, and let's struggle over why the Rockefellers of this nation don't pay one damn dime in taxes, and middle America pays through the nose. We have got to turn around the manipulation.

"And so in summary I'm simply suggesting to you that we must now lead. We must now lead, guided by a set of values that are humanistic, because as I said before I believe that a society that does not embrace humanistic values, is a society not worth saving. And at this moment our society is a materialistic society, not a human-oriented society. And so we must emerge, we must begin the debate, we must begin to challenge the priorities, pose alternatives to our problems, begin to help people understand that there are new and different roles that we can define for the government in our lives.

"Let us help people understand that the function of government, the struggle of politics, is the struggle over priorities. That's always been the issue. Help them understand what has to be involved in politics, and finally help people understand what government really should be and that we have a right to take back our government from the few and the powerful and the money that has dominated it in the past.

"I've now been in politics for approximately eight years, and this is the moment when politicians begin to ease back toward the Right, because you've been there long enough to find the groove. You've been there long enough to understand all the power and the advantages of incumbency. And you begin to think about such lofty things as staying 30 years. You start to think about things like security, and you start thinking about getting along, being well-liked. So one day you slide off your principles on one issue and then two and then three. And then one morning you awaken to shave, and you realize that you're shaving the face of a prostitute, and that's very tragic, incredibly tragic.

"And so you and I have to begin to talk about a whole definition, of a new kind of person that we want out there to lead. At this moment, it's a moment when I should be leaning back to the Right, to stay for 30. But in the eight years that I've been in Congress, I feel even stronger that one must be a revolutionary, and one must be courageous to talk about revolutionary ideas, because it is only revolutionaries with ideas and ideals that will change America and change the world. I join you in that effort."□

National Perspective

Labor Leaders Warn Of Threat From The Right

(Chicago, Ill.) The growing "radical Right," and its specifically anti-union components — the National Association of Manufacturers, Council for a Union Free Environment and the National Right to Work Committee — were the subject of concern at the recent statewide AFL-CIO convention here.

Alexander Barkan, national director of the Committee on Political Education (COPE), political wing of the giant union, warned the 1,900 delegates about the dangers of the extremist conservative movement. "Our enemies have gone beyond reforms. Legislation such as Taft-Hartley and Landrum-Griffin — they weakened us. But we can exist."

Barkan referred to the new anti-labor groups as "labor's most effective enemies." He detailed the work of the "defense fund" of the Right to Work Committee, stating they had "supplied high-priced attorneys at a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars to a few disgruntled union members."

Pointing to a case in which a Nixon-appointed federal district judge ruled that union dues could only be spent on matters directly related to contract negotiations and grievance handling, Barkan said he was frightened by what the case would mean after the conservative leaning Supreme Court had heard and ruled on it. "Coming to this convention, putting out a union newspaper and certainly contributing to political campaigns would be outlawed," he said.

In ten years the number of locals de-certified has quadrupled.

Barkan warned of a multi-pronged attack against the union movement — in the courts, legislatures and on the shop floors themselves.

Citing the growing success of efforts to de-certify local unions (a procedure which organizes workers to elect to eliminate the union from their shop), Barkan stated, "In 1966, less than 200 local unions were de-certified. Ten years later that number had grown to over 800. For 1977 and 1978, I'm sure it will be over 1,000. The union-busting seminars by hustling lawyers are working."

Barkan warned delegates that the multi-pronged attack is being conducted in the courts, the state and national legislatures and the shop floors themselves. □

Steel Workers Meet In Atlantic City

(Atlantic City, N.J.) The United Steel Workers (USW) held their national convention here in mid-September. It was the first national convention since the insurgent steel workers' "fight back" movement had put together a national coalition behind a slate of candidates for the top four national offices in the union and took 45% of the vote in 1977.

Since that time the union leadership, under Lloyd McBride, signed an industry-wide contract with a provision against strikes. McBride was the hand-picked successor to I.W. Abel, who had run the union previously. They have both been accused of rendering the 1.2 million membership union ineffective as an aggressive fighter for the rights of workers, both employed and unemployed, by tying it closely to the industry.

The methods by which the convention was run accurately reflect the desire of McBride and his staff to maintain a firm grip on the direction of the union. The convention is attended by 3,500 delegates representing the interests of the workers at a policy-making level every two years.

The union pays for the transportation and expenses of only its own staff which number somewhere between 900 and 1,000. Expenses of delegates who are elected from the locals must come from their own funds, a cost which hundreds of the smaller locals can hardly afford. With numerous locals therefore unable to send representatives, staff who are hired and fired at the national level pick up the locals' credentials and appear at the convention as delegates. As a standard practice, this gives McBride 1,000 delegates automatically.

Utilizing the rest of its patronage, the conservative union leadership puts together 1,500 delegate seats which it controls directly and can use to influence the remaining 65%. At a recent press conference in Chicago, when McBride was asked whether or not the national leadership manipulated 35% of the vote at the convention, he replied "Well, not quite 35%."

It is interesting to note that, traditionally, district directors suggest who should be put on staff before the national office hires them. This is not the case in District 31 (East Chicago-Gary) which with 120,000 members is the largest in the union, as well as the base of the "fight back" movement which challenged the presidency in 1977.

Many observers state that the convention was operated in a manner to isolate the growing movement for greater union democracy led by delegates from District 31 and District 33 iron miners. One long-time activist commented, "Sure they have democracy. They let you say anything you want. But they control the votes. That was never in question. They do and pass what they want. It doesn't matter how much you say or what you say."

While only a few of the issues in the struggle for direction of the union reached the newspapers, there were in reality many more. These included the formation of a women's department within the union and a strong position on affirmative action. McBride used his clout to contain discussion on both.

There were other issues. The question of the locals' right to

McBride, asked if he controlled 35% of the vote at the convention responded, "Well, not quite 35%."

ratify contracts was expected to cause much furor at the convention. It was raised in the form of a move by the chair to send the question to the industrial conference (the meetings of local presidents in each industry which is represented by the United Steel Workers union). The right to ratify itself was attacked by union spokesmen close to McBride, who said it would divide the union and cripple it. But proponents of the right to ratify point out that the national leadership has used its position to confirm bad national contracts.

McBride and company sought to change the manner in which national campaigns for office within the union are financed. The convention voted to restrict any candidate from accepting funds for his or her campaign from outside the union membership. This was another move to weaken the opposition forces since McBride can rely on regular contributions from the staff that he hires. Sources within District 31 contacted by KEEP STRONG expressed displeasure with the vote. "It's gotten to the point where it's a farce. You can't accept money from your wife or your own mother. McBride has made the whole question of money a farce."

Finally, the rank and file insurgents had attempted to change the requirements for a roll call vote to be taken. Present rules call for 30% of the delegates seated to vote in favor before a roll call can be taken. The insurgents tried to pass a rule that would allow for 30% of those present when the question comes up to pass a roll call. This was viewed as an effective method to hold delegates accountable to the tens of thousands of workers who they were busily misrepresenting. This vote, as many other progressive measures before it, failed by a significant victory. □

Politicians Fight Crime Prevention Program

(East Dallas, Tex.) The effective, East Dallas community organization, the Bois d'Arc Patriots (pronounced bo-dark), has become the target of an intense smear campaign, following the group's receipt of a federal grant for its innovative crime prevention program. The smear campaign is actually part of an overall assault on the East Dallas community by Dallas politicians, headed by Mayor Bob Folsom, and real estate interests, according the *People's Voice*, the community newspaper started by the Patriots.

East Dallas is a low-income, racially integrated community facing planned destruction by Dallas city planners, developers and local banks. These forces would like to "revitalize" East Dallas. At the center of their urban renewal plan is a proposed turnpike. The turnpike, if built along the Santa Fe railroad tracks, would sandwich the Mt. Auburn/Santa Fe section of East Dallas between two freeways, "thereby virtually ending residential life and bringing on commercial redevelopment." In addition, properties, including some owned by Mayor Folsom himself, would rise in value.

"In this scenario, crime plays a vital role. Street crime, especially young-on-old crimes like purse snatching and mugging, tend to de-stabilize the community. Longtime resident homeowners sell quickly and sell cheap, because of fear, usually to absentee owners. With the land blocked up and the community destroying itself — young against old, race against race — the housing market deteriorates, and the area becomes ripe for wholesale redevelopment."

The Bois d'Arc Patriots' crime prevention program focuses on young-on-old crime. It provides free, safe transporta-

Everything in the Patriots' crime prevention program came from people of the community, who have themselves suffered abuse.

tion for the elderly and disabled of the community; a network of "helping homes" in the neighborhoods where victims and potential victims of street crimes can seek assistance; and a youth center controlled by young people themselves and with educational, recreational and community service-oriented activities.

The Bois d'Arc Patriots see the program as a means to deter crime and also as a way to pull together the community, one which is faced with an onslaught by real estate developers. The program was already in operation when it received the $90,000 grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration last August.

When the grant was announced in the press, the mudslinging began. "The politicians refused to evaluate the crime prevention program on its merits, preferring instead to malign the Patriots as "vigilantes," "hotheads," "confrontationists," "rabble rousers," "communists," "violent revolutionaries," or simply, "radicals."

Charges were made that the Patriots had used CETA employees for political work, though these charges had already been put to rest by the Office of Human Development. The most outrageous charges were printed in a $5,000 ad in the *Dallas Morning News*, purchased on behalf of a disgruntled former CETA employee. In fact, she was fired by the Patriots because she was working a second job, clearly against CETA regulations.

"The stakes are high (in East Dallas). Because the Patriots and their friends have consistently opposed the destruction of low and middle-income housing as well as the turnpike scheme, they have become the targets of a right-wing backlash."□

Stop Proposition 6 Movement Growing

(San Francisco, Calif.) Mounting resistance to Proposition 6, a state-wide referendum which would demand that homosexual teachers be driven from California's public schools, has gained steam here recently. The proposition, sometimes called the Briggs amendment after its author, southern California state legislator John Briggs, will appear on the ballot in the November general election.

Opponents have promised to raise more than $1 million to finance the measure's defeat at the polls and have stated that they will register between 10,000 and 20,000 new voters before November. Organizers of the anti-proposition 6 campaing are quick to point out some facts which have been ignored by the media and by the proposition's supporters.

They say the amendment is unnecessary because the California education code contains comprehensive laws demanding the firing of any teacher or other employee (heterosexual or homosexual) for "immoral or unprofessional conduct" and "mental conditioning unfitting him (or her) to associate with children."

They further point out that the proposed amendment has nothing to do with an employee's professional competence. Since 97% of child seduction is committed by heterosexuals, anti-Briggs organizers believe that the intent of the proposition has little basis.

Finally they argue that the passage of the proposition would not only seriously infringe on teachers' rights of privacy, but would cost the California taxpayers millions of extra dollars because of the extensive hearings and appeals procedures which employees would use when they are dismissed.

Many gay people here feel that more is at stake than just a new law. Their campaign literature states what they believe to be the central issue and cause for their concern. "We all think that we lead upstanding and moral lives, but if it were up to every citizen in our community to judge us, would each one agree?"

The anti-Briggs movement has gained a diverse and broad cross section of political support, ranging from the Black Panther Party to California Governor Jerry Brown and state Health, Education and Welfare head, Mario Obledo.□

BPP President Acquitted Of Assault Charge

(Oakland, Calif.) One more of the much-heralded charges against Black Panther Party President Huey P. Newton was put to rest here on September 29, as a seven-man, five-woman jury acquitted Huey of the charge of assault against Preston Callins.

The Department 10 courtroom rang loud with cheers and applause as the clerk read a unanimous decision of "not guilty." For several months, Huey P. Newton and his friends, family and members of the Black Panther Party had been made to suffer through a tormenting series of court appearances, because they knew that he was not guilty of beating the 57-year-old tailor Preston Callins.

Callins had spent 12 days in jail for refusing to testify against Newton, saying that, "Huey P. Newton is innocent of the charge of beating me up. So I feel strongly that the charge should be dropped.....I will take the fifth amendment if I am called to testify."

With that announcement the prosecution's case fell apart. There was little chance that Huey could be convicted when the state had no witness or victim to testify against him. The jury reached its "not guilty" verdict on the assault charge four and one-half days after receiving the case.

Defense counsel Michael Kennedy in his closing arguments had moved the jury when he summarized the essence of the case against Newton. "It is time that the book of antagonism between the Black Panther Party and Oakland law enforcement be closed," Kennedy told the seven man, five woman jury, which included two Black people. "You must have the courage to do what Preston Callins did not do. You must have the integrity to do what Oakland law enforcement did not do. When you look at this case objectively, you must find him not guilty, *because he is not guilty.*"

There had been many, in the media and law enforcement, who hoped that this latest round of trials involving Newton would once and for all convict him and through implication, his Party of some serious crime. They hoped that such a conviction would not only bring Newton to jail but discredit him and the Party he has spent one-third of his life building.

But this time proved to be different from other times. The case had many of the same elements as other cases that have been brought against the Black Panther Party. For 12 years witnesses have been suddenly appearing out of nowhere to bring the supposed truth to light against the Black Panther Party, its leaders and their activities. For 12 years the media, Bay Area newspapers and the electronic media have used a series of unproven charges to try the Party and its leaders in the streets. For 12 years, law enforcement officials from Langley, Va. to Emeryville, Calif. have schemed, bought, lied, murdered in their desperate search for a way to dismember the Party and put it to rest.

This latest attempt had begun in 1974. It drove the Party leader from the country and aimed to demoralize the ranks of the Party.

The latest round of news reports, from *Time* magazine to the Bay Area *Guardian* (a supposed "underground" publication), were actually remarks on the Party, couched in rumors of dissension within the Party and the weakness and failure of its programs. But, apparently, it was all for nothing. Once again the government failed to get a conviction.□

The seven man, five woman jury reached its not guilty verdict four and one-half days after receiving the case.

Intercommunal Perspective

Popular Insurrection Rages In Nicaragua

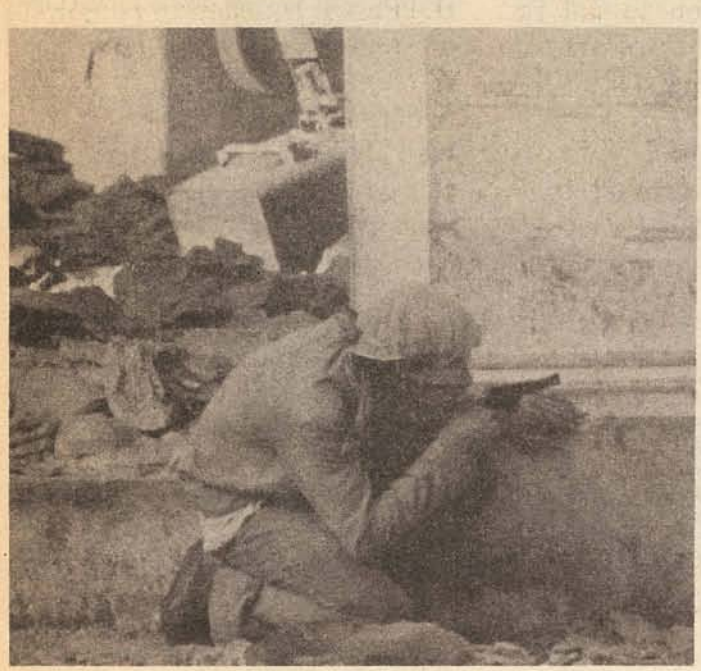
(Managua, Nicaragua) A popular uprising against the dictatorship of President Anastasio Somoza erupted and spread throughout Nicaragua last month. The most recent uprising was sparked by a bold 45 hour seizure of the National Palace by the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). This action was carried out by 25 guerrillas who seized 1,500 hostages, most of whom were government officials. The guerrillas demanded the release of 59 political prisoners, $500,000 and safe passage to Panama. After the demands were met the guerrillas left Nicaragua as heros while thousands of Nicaraguans lined the streets to cheer them as they departed the country.

Further opposition to the Somoza government quickly grew as business and industrial leaders declared a general strike, in support of the actions of the guerrillas. This strike which was participated in by every grouping of people in the country has been over 80% effective, virtually bringing the entire economy of the country to a standstill. As Somoza's elite U.S.-trained National Guard moved in to crush the strike through massive arrests and brutal attacks on civilians, the country, led by the FSLN, rose in an armed insurrection.

This phase of the insurrection lasted from September 15 to the 22nd. At one point the guerrilla forces had suceeded in liberating every major city in the country. The 8,100 member National Guard reacted brutally, killing thousands of civilians and literally leveling two of the country's largest cities. Before the guerrillas had retreated to the countryside, over 3,000 civilians had been killed along with 1,000 National Guardsmen and about 200 guerrillas. Almost every force in the country had participated in the revolt, leaving few with any doubt that the days of the Somoza regime were numbered.

The reasons for this broad-based insurrection become very clear if one takes a closer look at the Somoza family and the status of the general population in Nicaragua.

Nicaragua, which is about the size of the state of Michigan, has a population of about 2.2 million. It is by all standards a very poor country with the median income of over 50% of



Sandinista guerrilla takes aim during recent uprisings in Nicaragua.

the population at about $90 a year. Unemployment is officially about 35%, in reality much higher, and over 70% of the people cannot read or write.

The country has been ruled by the Somoza family since 1933 when the father of the current president was installed

Anastasio Somoza is the latest in a family line that has run Nicaragua for profit since 1933.

in power by the U.S. Army. The Somoza's have been called by many the greediest rulers in the history of the world. During the 45 years that the family has been in power they have amassed tremendous wealth at the expense of the majority of people in the country.

The Somoza family controls all of the nation's banks and owns its T.V. and radio stations. They have extensive holdings in pineapple, tobacco, coffee, bananas and sugar cane, giving them basic control of all of the nation's major agricultural industries. In addition, the family controls about 10% of all the factories in the country. The personal assets of the president alone total somewhere in the neighborhood of about $500 million, accumulated clearly at the expense of the nation's 2.2 million people.□

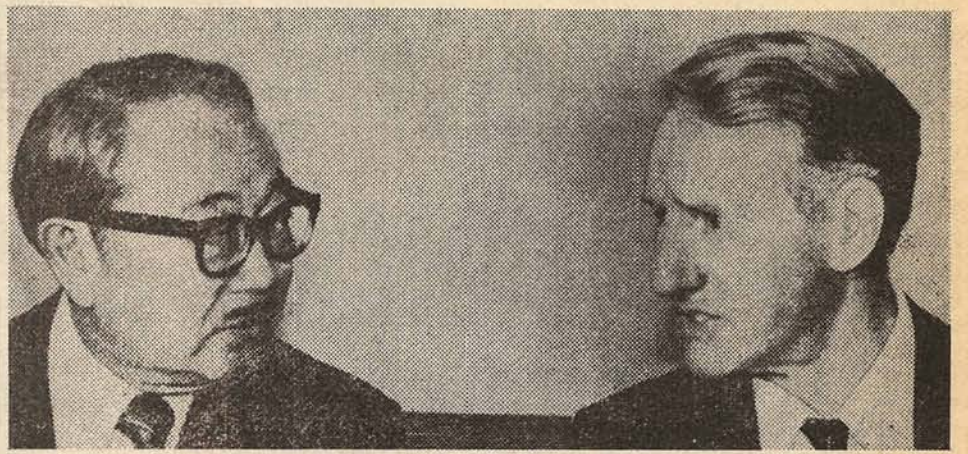
Visa Granted To Rhodesian Racist

(Washington, D.C.) Ian Smith, leader of the racist Rhodesian government, who has been denounced by every legitimate government in the world, has been granted a 30 day visa by the State Department to visit the U.S. Sources in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) said Smith would probably fly to New York on Saturday, October 7 to begin a 30 day speaking tour of the U.S. which will probably include a meeting with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

The response to this action taken by the State Department by progressive forces throughout the world has been one of outrage. It has been pointed out that this action is a gross violation of the United Nations resolution prohibiting any U.N. member country from issuing visas to representatives of the unlawful Rhodesian regime. Some countries have charged that such open patronage by the U.S. can only encourage the Rhodesian racists to continue their repression against Zimbabwean patriots and acts of aggression against independent African states.

Smith made an illegal declaration of independence from Great Britain in 1964 in the name of white supremacy. Since that time his government has been recognized by only one country in the entire world. Every move he has made in the 14 years since he took office has been designed to perpetuate serious atrocities against the country's majority Black population. In Rhodesia, 230,000 Whites rule over seven million Blacks.

Smith's trip to the U.S. is being sponsored by 27 right-wing senators led by S.I. Hayakawa of California. A quick look at the voting records of these 27 senators indicates that they have voted consistently against every U.S. bill calling for equal rights in this country.□



Ian Smith (right) has been invited to the U.S. by California Senator S.I. Hayakawa (left) in direct violation of a U.N. resolution prohibiting any U.N. member country from issuing visas to representatives of the unlawful Rhodesian regime.

Sports

HEART OF UPTOWN SOFTBALL LEAGUE SPONSORS TEAM BANQUETS

"We're Celebrating Our Accomplishments And Our Unity"

At the end of its first successful season, the Heart of Uptown Softball League sponsored banquets for all the teams who participated in the league.

The softball league, which was organized by the youth of Uptown and sponsored by the Uptown People's Community Service Center, was created to help solve the critical problem of the lack of organized recreation in the community.

The highlight of the banquets was the celebration for the "Rican Allstars," which was held September 23 at the Fred Hampton Memorial Hall. After a delicious dinner of lecheon asado, rice and salad, the program for the evening began.

Richard "Curly" Cohen, who coordinated the recreation program, welcomed the players' families and friends. Curly then introduced Ramon Arroyo who had taken the time to coach the team and work with the youth. Mr. Arroyo explained he received a great deal of pleasure from working with the teams and felt it was a good experience.

Then Ms. Helen Shiller, who had helped with the planning of the league and the people's candidate for alderperson of the 46th ward, spoke. Ms. Shiller explained that the softball league was a good example of people defining their own needs and then proceeding to do something about it. "We can learn from this experience," she said. "We needed a recreation program for our young people. When we could not get one through the city we did not give up. Instead we did it ourselves. And this is something that everyone here should be very proud of. I congratulate you."□

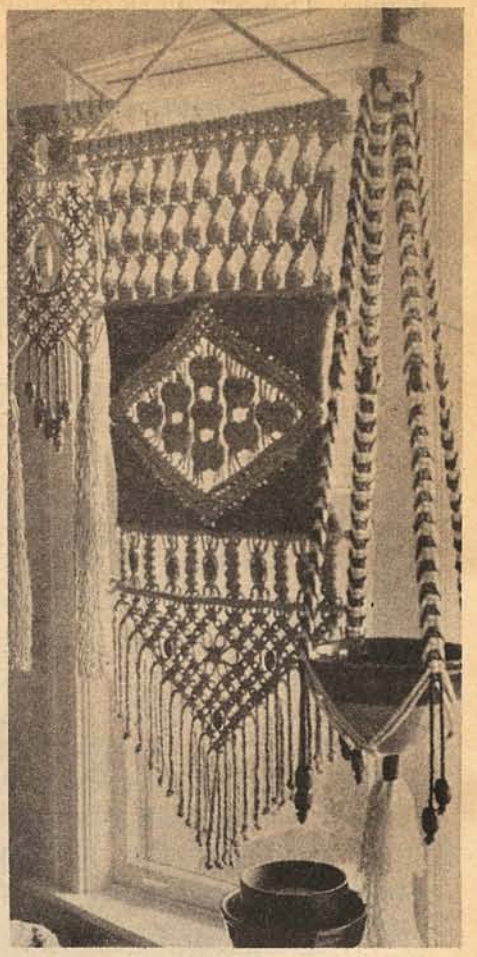
Clockwise: (1) Rican Allstars and their families and friends enjoyed a delicious meal before the banquet program began; (2) a number of trophies for outstanding work were presented to the team's players; (3) Uptown Stars held a lively disco; (4) the Uptown Stars were proud of their first successful season.

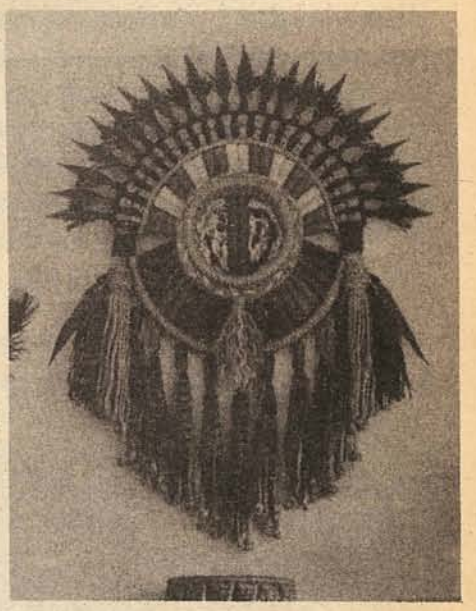
People's Culture

Robin Whitespear

"Community pride is the sum of the self-respect of every person in the community."

This is certainly not a new idea. It is also true that the idea did not come from one person's head. It grew from the desire of an enslaved people to taste freedom. Community pride has just as many ways of expressing itself as there are people in our communities. Robin Whitespear, Uptown resident, grew up in Texas and came to Uptown 11 years ago. His health was bad, his eyes and legs were growing weaker. He hit the street and stayed there for the next eight years, acting more and more like the ghetto around him. As the system wore him down, he worked harder and harder to drink and pop himself to death, until three years ago when he hit rock bottom.





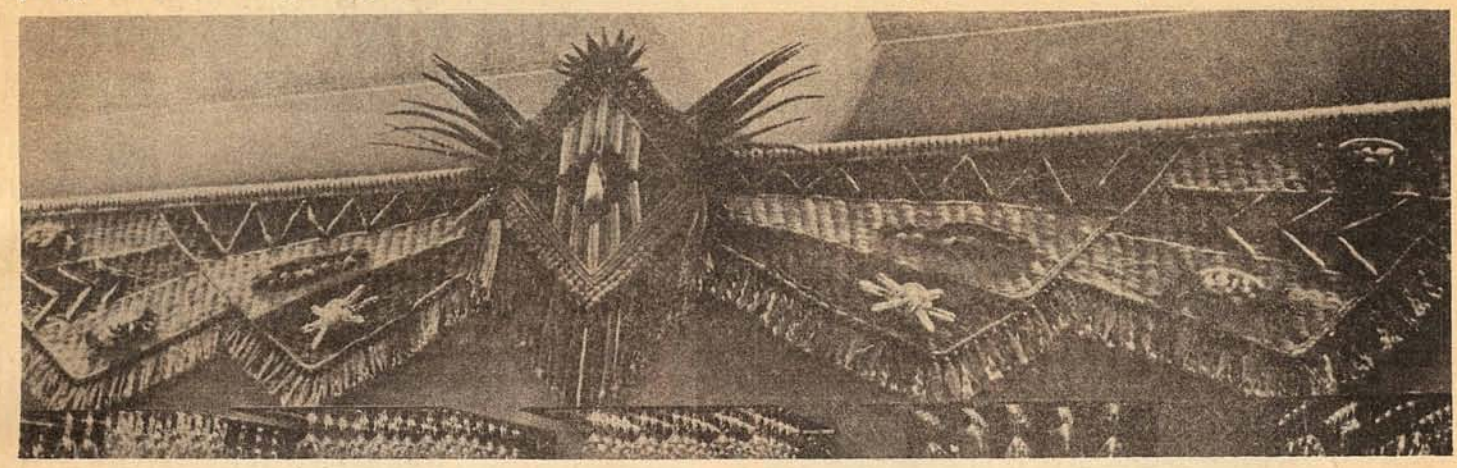
Today Robin Whitespear (upper left) stands as one of the two major macrame artists in Chicago.

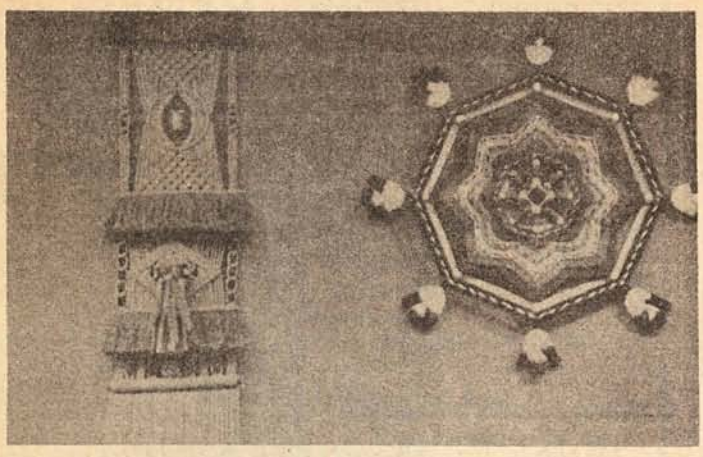
Robin spent the next three years putting himself together. He began to do macrame as part of his therapy to deal with his addictions. Today he stands as one of the two major macrame artists in the city of Chicago. Many have said that his work is unique in the use of color and expression of Native American symbols, so unique that nothing like it can be found anywhere else in the country. The man working while sitting at his kitchen table has created art pieces that are 20 feet across and half that height.

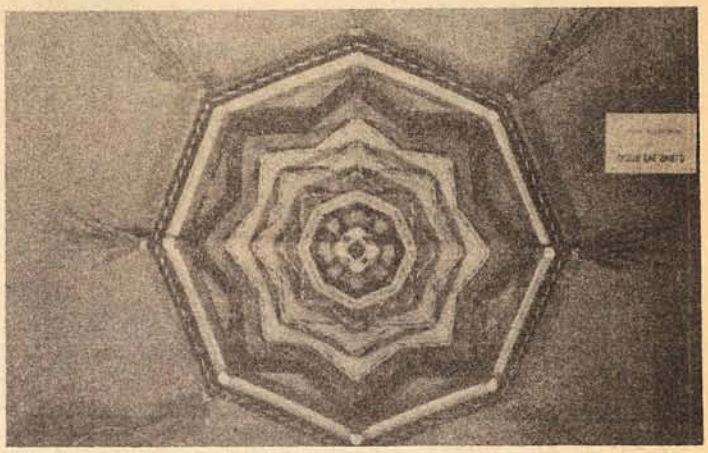
Summarizing the reasons for his work, he says, "Most of the people that I was on the street with are dead now. We buried eight brothers and sisters in the last two years alone, all of them under 30. I don't do this (the macrame) for the money, in the sense that I'm not trying to get rich. I think every day what it is like to kill yourself

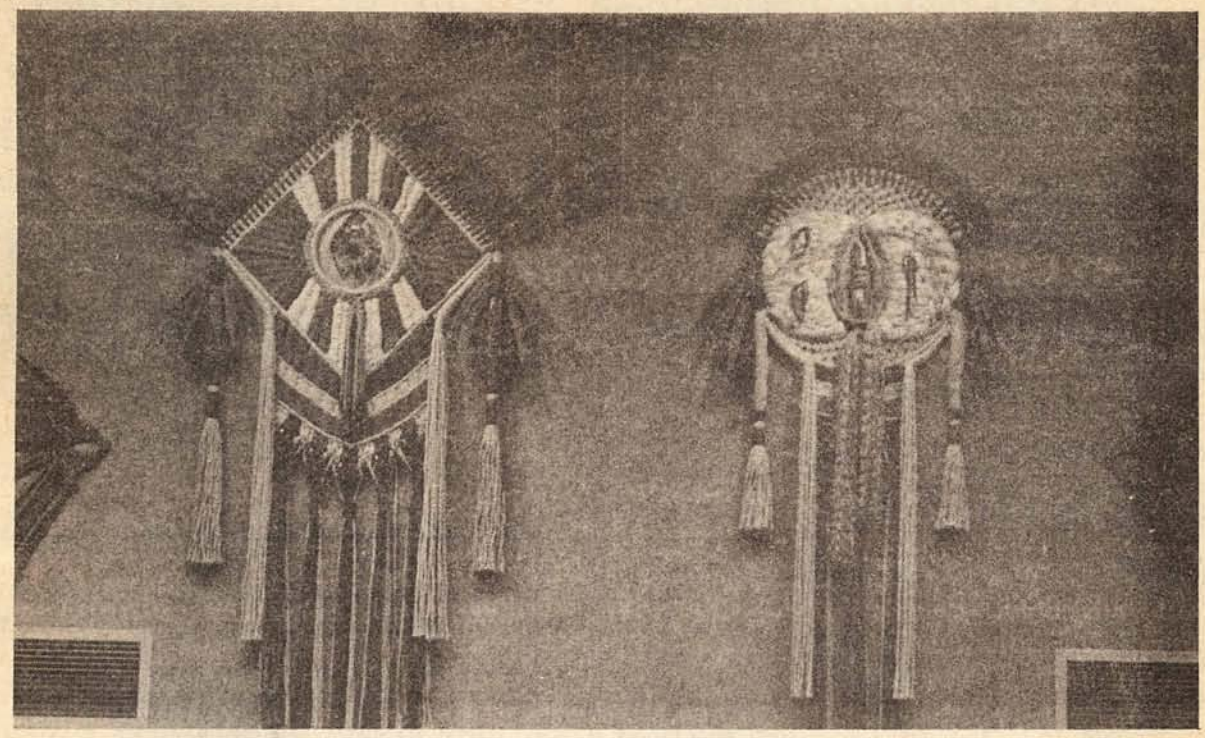
slowly. The art work occupies my mind and my life right now, but I'm going on in college to a program that will qualify me to come back into the community to counsel alcoholics."

Robin's artwork is on display at the Bank of Chicago, 1050 W. Wilson, and at Mel Markon's Zanadu Restaurant, 6259 N. Broadway.□









His work is unique in use of color and expression of Native American symbols — nothing like it can be found anywhere in the country.

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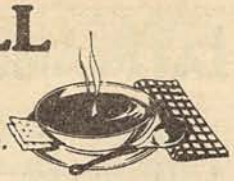

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Contributions should be made to the Keep Strong Publishing Co., 1222 W. Wilson Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60640.